



## **Brian H. Graff**

*Chief Executive Officer of the American Retirement Association*

Brian H. Graff, Esq., is the Chief Executive Officer of the American Retirement Association, the umbrella organization for the American Society of Pension Professionals and Actuaries (ASPPA), the American Society of Enrolled Actuaries (ASEA), the National Association of Plan Advisors (NAPA), the National Tax-deferred Savings Association

(NTSA), and the Plan Sponsor Council of America (PSCA). Graff oversees the American Retirement Association's operations, and working with the Board of Directors, charts the strategic direction for the organization. Graff also serves as the Executive Director of ASPPA and NAPA. The American Retirement Association is a national organization of more than 25,000 retirement plan professionals who provide advisory and administrative services for qualified retirement plans covering tens of millions of American workers. In addition to representing the interests of its members before Congress and federal regulatory agencies on a combined basis, the American Retirement Association annually conducts more than a dozen industry conferences, and annually administers more than 5,000 examinations leading to various industry-related professional credentials.

Graff actively speaks on behalf of the retirement plan system and has been quoted in *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and interviewed by various television outlets. He has testified on retirement policy issues before Congress and various federal regulators on numerous occasions.

An attorney (District of Columbia) and certified public accountant (New York-inactive), Graff was formerly Legislation Counsel to the U.S. Congress Joint Committee on Taxation where he provided policy and technical analysis relating to employee benefits, health care and Social Security to members of Congress. While working for Congress, Graff participated in the development of legislation, including the Small Business Job Protection Act of 1996 and the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996. Prior to working on Capitol Hill, Graff was associated with the Washington, DC, law firm, The Groom Law Group, which specializes in employee benefits. Graff received his doctoral degree in law, cum laude, from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in Philadelphia. He holds a bachelor of science in accounting with distinction from Cornell University in Ithaca, NY.



## **Christine Kopec**

*Communications & Team Development Facilitator  
Executive & Leadership Coach  
Strategic Consultant*

Christine is passionate about helping people communicate and connect better at work. She founded the Avante Leadership Group in 2009 to help organizations solve their communication-related issues for bottom-line

business results. Her communication and team-building training programs have changed the lives of professionals at the US Army, Sandia National Laboratories, Lockheed Martin, Spectra Logic Corp, Long View Systems and more. She is a certified facilitator and award-winning authorized partner for Everything Workplace DiSC®. She is also certified in The Five Behaviors of a Cohesive Team™ program based on New York Times bestselling author, Patrick Lencioni's work, and a certified Resilient Leadership Coach. She is an instructional designer and author of several highly praised training programs.

With a diverse career background that includes sales, management, consulting, and strategic business development, Christine brings her knowledge and expertise to any speaking, facilitating or coaching engagement. As a consultant, she enjoys facilitating strategic planning meetings and leadership engagement programs. She has served on the Board of Directors for the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame where she plans and facilitates their Annual Board Retreat.

Christine is a sought-after speaker with her interactive presentations and webinars about resiliency, effective communication and leadership development. Her clients have included the Project Management Institute, ICF (International Coaching Federation), New Mexico State University, Society for Women Engineers, Colorado Women's Chamber of Commerce and Digital Globe's—Women's Networking Initiative.

She holds a master's degree in Transpersonal Psychology from Sofia University in addition to a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration degree from Drake University.