

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTIONS



Steven Spillan, Esq., CGMS

Partner

The Bruman Group, PLLC

Background

I joined The Bruman Group, PLLC in 2005 and served as a part-time administrative assistant, legislative assistant, associate, and senior associate before becoming a partner in 2020. I assist clients with federal grants management and various federal grant programs. I also work with clients on compliance with applicable rules and regulations under the Uniform Grant Guidance (UGG). This includes providing training on applicable grants management rules, assisting clients with drafting/updating written policies and procedures for their federal grants, conducting mock monitoring reviews to detect any material weakness in a non-federal entity's internal controls, and assisting clients in resolving any audit or monitoring findings. In 2020, I became a Certified Grants Management Specialist (CGMS). I received my J.D. from the Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law in 2011. I earned my bachelor's degree in political science from American University in 2005. I am admitted to practice law in the District of Columbia.

Candidate Profile: Legal Knowledge

I work financial policies, budgets and audit/review letters for clients. I have a Juris Doctor (J.D.) and I draft motions, memos, procedures, and other documents for clients. My firm specializes in federal education grants, so I work with clients in state and local governments, nonprofits, colleges and universities on various education grants.

Board Experience

In addition to being a partner at my firm, which includes various management and oversight responsibilities, I work with a number of nonprofit and other clients in reorganizing their organizational structure to ensure optimal efficiency and efficacy.

NGMA Experience/Volunteering

In addition to presenting at the Annual Grants Training over multiple years, I have also provided training on the Grants Management Body of Knowledge (GMBok), led online webinars and recently presented at a virtual meeting of the NGMA Rocky Mountain Chapter.

Goal of NGMA's Strategic Framework That Most Resonates with Me

Strategic Goal #2, "to support the overall level of competency of grants management professionals by offering diversified, affordable educational and online resources targeted to their career level and sector," resonates with me because I have spent my entire professional life supporting this work. For over 20 years, I have been providing training, support, and general consulting for clients all across the country to increase the overall level of competency of grants management professionals. Between conferences, virtual training, seminars, mock monitoring, and rewrites of policy manuals and federal procedures, I have dedicated my career to making sure grant managers have all of the necessary tools to navigate federal regulations and requirements. Assisting NGMA in achieving this goal would be a tremendous opportunity.

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Top Two Challenges Over the Next 3-5 Years for the Profession

In light of recent trends to decrease federal spending and consolidate the responsibilities of federal agencies, grants managers will likely have to find ways to continue their work with less financial support, and self-monitor for compliance with applicable rules and regulations. As grants are terminated, reduced, or combined into block grants with other programs, grants managers will have to find ways to collaborate with others in the field to use the limited resources to provide support as many programs and beneficiaries as possible, with limited federal guidance and oversight. A smaller federal workforce will not allow for the level of federal monitoring that grantees have known in prior years. However, the rules and requirements over the use of federal funds will still apply, meaning grantees will have to ensure they have internal controls in place to monitor their own compliance. Additionally, pass-through entities will have less resources to monitor subrecipients.