

MAXENE M. BARDWELL, CPA, CIA, CFE, CISA, CIGA, CRMA

Maxene M. Bardwell is a certified executive with more than twenty years of experience leading internal audit establishments in the financial services and water utility industries. She is the first female Director of Internal Audit (now Assistant Inspector General for Audit, Office of the Inspector General) in the 100-year history of the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) in Laurel, Maryland. Established in 1918, WSSC is one of the largest water and wastewater utilities in the nation and serves approximately 1.8 million residents in Prince George's and Montgomery Counties. As WSSC's Assistant Inspector General for Audit, Maxene leads a team of auditors which saves WSSC and its customers millions of dollars each fiscal year through various audits, risk mitigation efforts, and the deterrence of fraud, waste and abuse.

Her key accomplishments at WSSC include:

- Spearheading the establishment of the utility's first Audit Committee;
- Implementing risk-based audit plans to focus limited audit resources on the high risk areas of the Commission;
- Establishing the Commission's first Fraud, Waste and Abuse/Whistleblower Hotline for internal and external stakeholders;
- Implementing professional auditing standards to enhance services provided to WSSC's employees and the public;
- Establishing an Ethics Officer position as a dedicated ethics resource;
- Requiring Code of Ethics and fraud awareness training for all new hires; and
- Mandating Commission-wide Code of Ethics training for all employees.

Maxene has earned the following notable credentials over the course of her career: Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified Internal Auditor (CIA), Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), Certified Information Systems Auditor (CISA), Certified Inspector General Auditor (CIGA), and Certification in Risk Management Assurance (CRMA). She is a member of several professional organizations, such as the Association of Certified Public Accountants, Association of Inspectors General, Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants, Institute of Internal Auditors, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, Information Systems Audit and Control Association, and Association of Local Government Auditors.

In addition to her exemplary career and professional achievements, Maxene is determined to give back to the accounting profession and surrounding community. As examples, Maxene holds board and committee positions. She currently serves as a Mayor appointed Commissioner for the City of Laurel Ethics Commission. Serving in the capacity of a Laurel Ethics Commissioner enables her to help foster a high level of trust and confidence in the citizenry with regard to the function of their City government; as well as give back to the community and county where she resides. Maxene is also the Board Secretary for the Central Maryland Chapter of ISACA (ISACA-CMC) where she is responsible for developing meeting agendas, minutes, rosters, and other associated matters. She streamlined the processing of ISACA-CMC's meeting documentation since her term began in 2019.

In recognition of her commitment to community service, Maxene received a 2018 Women to Watch Award from the Maryland Association of Certified Public Accountants and was inducted into the Distinguished Alumni Hall of Fame of her high school alma mater, Bridgeton High School, Bridgeton New Jersey the same year. Her diverse community service background includes, but is not limited to:

- Volunteer Instructor, Association of Inspectors General
- Pro bono tax advisor for low-income individuals at Maryland Volunteer Lawyers Service;
- HERO Volunteer, Junior Achievement, Finance Park Prince George's County, financial literacy education;
- Volunteer Activity Leader or Project Judge at the Annual YMCA's THINGAMAJIG® Invention Convention (STEM Fair) in Prince George's County, Maryland; and
- Volunteer at the Laurel Advocacy & Referral Services, Inc. (LARS) Food Pantry.
- Volunteer Judge, Girls in Technology (GIT).

Maxene is a first generation college graduate. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, with an accounting concentration from The Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. While employed full-time, she earned a Master of Arts degree, Magna Cum Laude, with a finance concentration from Notre Dame of Maryland University, Baltimore, Maryland. Maxene originates from Hartford, Connecticut. She presently resides in Laurel, Maryland.

Lisa Woods
8/5/2026

LISA WOODS
NOTARY PUBLIC
PRINCE GEORGE'S
MARYLAND
MY COMMISSION EXPIRES OCT. 9, 2026

Maxene Bardwell