

VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF TAXES BIOGRAPHIES

Craig Bolio, Commissioner

Craig Bolio was appointed Commissioner of the Department of Taxes by Governor Phil Scott, in December 2019. Commissioner Bolio has served the department since 2011, with much of his time spent supporting and improving the operational side of the department. He has served as the department's Deputy Commissioner, and before that, focused on ensuring the successful implementation of the department's integrated tax processing system; VTax. Craig grew up in Vermont and earned a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Political Science and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Vermont. He lives in Essex Junction with his wife, Kristen, and their dog, Frankie.

Rebecca Sameroff, Deputy Commissioner

Rebecca Sameroff was appointed Deputy Commissioner of the Vermont Department of Taxes in December 2020. Deputy Sameroff is responsible for legislative initiatives, policy development, and analytical work for the department. Ms. Sameroff previously served the department as Chief Fiscal Analyst, supervising policy analysis, revenue forecasting, and analysis of the administrative impact and revenue implications of proposed policy changes, including distributional impact on Vermont taxpayers. Ms. Sameroff also served the City of Burlington as Special Advisor for Finance and Technology. Deputy Sameroff holds a Master of Public Administration from The Maxwell School at Syracuse University and a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology from Northwestern University. Ms. Sameroff is an enthusiastic hiker, biker, and birder, and a former member of the Audubon Vermont Board of Directors.

Biographies are listed alphabetically from here.

Sharon Asay, Director of Finance, Revenue Accounting and Returns Processing Divisions

Sharon Asay is the Director of Finance for the Vermont Department of Taxes. Prior to this role, she was the Director of the Division of Taxpayer Services for the Vermont Department of Taxes. Sharon joined the department in 2007 and has been the director since 2009. Sharon came to the department with more than 20 years of experience in public accounting. Prior to joining the department, Sharon managed her own certified public accounting (CPA) firm in the state of New Jersey. Sharon has a bachelor's degree in accounting and is currently a licensed CPA in Vermont.

Will Baker, Assistant Attorney General and General Counsel, Vermont Department of Taxes

Will Baker is an Assistant Attorney General and the General Counsel at the Vermont Department of Taxes. Before being appointed general counsel in January 2017, he was a department staff attorney for 10 years. Previously, he was in private practice with a Burlington law firm. Will is a past chair of the Vermont Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division and has served on the Bar Association's Board of Managers. He currently serves as chair of his town's school board. Will earned a bachelor's degree from George Washington University and a law degree from Northeastern University School of Law.

Claudia Brousseau, Taxpayer Services Section Chief, Corporate and Business Income Tax Division

Claudia currently serves as the Corporate and Business Tax Section Chief in the Taxpayer Services Division. She has been part of the Vermont Department of Taxes for six years but has 30 years of tax and professional accounting experience. Claudia has a Bachelor of Science Degree from Norwich University, a Master of Science in Taxation from Golden Gate University and is a CPA licensed in the State of Vermont. She is currently the Treasurer of the Board of the OM Fisher House, Inc. which is one of the premier senior care facilities in Central Vermont. Claudia is married with one child and lives in Montpelier.

Deborah Carroll, Principal Assistant to the Commissioner, Office of the Commissioner

Deborah Carroll serves as the Principal Assistant to the commissioner's office. She grew up in Vermont and is a graduate of the University of Vermont. Deb's background includes more than 20 years as a litigation paralegal and fitness instructor, and more than a decade as a freelance writer and photographer. She was the Director of Events and Member Relations at a large Chamber of Commerce in Maine, and the Executive Director of a small Vermont Chamber of Commerce. Deb lives in the Mad River Valley and serves on both her local Planning Commission and Clean Water Committee.

Rena DiGregorio, Financial Section Chief, Revenue Accounting and Returns Processing Divisions

Rena DiGregorio is the Financial Section Chief at the Vermont Department of Taxes. Rena has a degree in Liberal Studies and is currently a student at Champlain College. She joined the department in 2015 and worked for over five years as the support coordinator on the VTax project for the Taxpayer Services Division. She currently works in the finance division overseeing division operations, VTax enhancements, forms maintenance, financial reconciliations, and reporting. Rena loves her career at Tax and enjoys serving Vermonters every day. She lives in Morrisville with her husband, Damien, daughter Maci, and their two German Shepherds, Winston, and Willow.

John Demeter, Tax Compliance Corporate Audit Specialist, Compliance Division

John Demeter works as the Tax Compliance Corporate Audit Specialist to develop and implement data-driven audit programs and a comprehensive audit plan. John started at the department in 2004 in the Corporate and Business Income Tax Section of the Division of Taxpayer Services and worked closely with all aspects of the administration of those taxes, as well as the Economic Advancement Tax Incentive and Vermont Employment Growth Incentive programs for more than a decade. Prior to his time with the Department of Taxes, John worked in operations and management for several Vermont businesses and a nonprofit. John holds a bachelor's degree in public policy studies from Duke University and has completed coursework in the Master of Public Administration program at the University of Vermont and the accounting curriculum at the Community College of Vermont. John lives in Middlesex with his wife and daughter, and currently chairs the town's Zoning Board of Adjustment.

Aaron Kaigle, VTax Director, VTax

Aaron Kaigle, in his role as VTax Director, directs all changes to the department's primary processing software system, VTax. Aaron manages the department's subject matter experts and coordinates their work with the development teams. Aaron oversaw the implementation of major initiatives including several new tax types, grant programs for businesses in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and as well as annual updates and legislative changes. Aaron has worked for the department since 2013, serving in various roles, including executive staff assistant, Tax Examiner in the Trust and Corporate Tax sections, and subject matter expert during the implementation and support of VTax. Aaron lives in Williston, Vermont, with his partner and two children.

Tracy Phillips, Compliance Audit Manager, Compliance Division

Tracy M. Phillips is the Compliance Audit Manager for the Vermont Department of Taxes. She oversees the office, field, and discovery audit programs, with a focus on ensuring that the audit process is fair and equitable. Tracy has direct private sector business experience and nearly 25 years of service for the State of Vermont. Previously, Tracy served as Director of the Unemployment Insurance and Wages Division at the Vermont Department of Labor. She holds a bachelor's degree in biomedical technology and received her Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Vermont.

Lisa Pinkus, Section Chief, Division of Taxpayer Services

Lisa Pinkus has been with the Tax Department for over fourteen years; she began her career as a seasonal temporary employee for two tax seasons before becoming a Tax Examiner in the Division of Taxpayer Services in 2008. Lisa began her college years studying education and later switched majors and schools to graduate with a degree in Business Management from Champlain College. Lisa was born and raised in Graniteville, Vermont, left to travel at the age of 21, then later returned to Vermont. She now lives in Montpelier with her two dogs, one cat, and two African side-neck turtles just a mile from the Tax Department. She enjoys spending time with her daughter and granddaughters in Milton, Vermont.

James Whitehouse, Director of Taxpayer Services

James (Jim) Whitehouse is the Director of Taxpayer Services for the Vermont Department of Taxes. He has served Vermont for thirty years: five years with the Agency of Transportation where he served as a Field Auditor; two years with the Department of Financial Regulation where he worked as a Financial Analyst; and 23 with Tax. During his career with Tax, he has served as Field Audit Supervisor, Assistant Director of Compliance, and Assistant Director of TPS. Jim is married with two children and lives in Huntington, Vermont, with his wife, Saint Maria. Jim enjoys the outdoors, hiking, skiing, and making fires, but is also content with a good book and a comfortable couch.