

2023 USM Gift Planning Summit Speaker Biographies

Aquanetta Betts, JD, CAP[®], AEP[®], CFRE is the Director of Planned Giving at George Mason University. Prior to joining George Mason University, she was the Senior Executive Director of Planned Giving at World Vision (Eastern U.S.). Before her roles within organizations, Aquanetta worked for more than a decade as an estate planning attorney in the District of Columbia and Maryland. She is the President of the Chesapeake Planned Giving Council and serves on the board of the Baltimore Estate Planning Council. She also serves in leadership positions with the National Bar Association's Real Property, Trusts, and Estates Section, the International Association of Advisors in Philanthropy, and the National Association of Charitable Gift Planners where she is a board member and serves as chair of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee.

Beth Fiencke has worked in gift planning at The Nature Conservancy for more than 18 years. In her current role she oversees gift planning marketing as well as the stewardship and engagement of TNC's legacy society. She has a BA in English from Oberlin College and an MFA in Creative Writing from George Mason University. Currently she serves as a member of the National Capital Gift Planning Council Board of Directors. Beth lives in Arlington, Va., with her husband, two children, and two very spoiled cats.

Shari Fleming, JD, AEP[®] is an attorney and Accredited Estate Planner[®] focused on helping individuals and businesses build, protect, and preserve their wealth and legacy. She is Principal of the Law Office of Shari Fleming, and her areas of legal practice include business organizations, real estate, estate planning, and estate administration. She also serves as Planned Giving Officer for Bowie State University, Maryland's first Historically Black College and University (HBCU), where she is responsible for cultivation, solicitation, and administration of gifts involving estates, trusts, and other gifts that reflect deferred giving opportunities. Shari is a graduate of Lincoln University (Pa.), the nation's first degree-granting HBCU, and the University of Maryland School of Law, and she is currently enrolled in courses to complete her Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy[®] (CAP[®]) certification. Shari was named one of [The Daily Record's 2021 Leadership in Law Generation J.D. honorees](#), due to her dedication to the practice of law and for advancing the concepts of ownership, wealth maintenance, and wealth retention, specifically within communities of color. Shari proclaims that her greatest accomplishment is living, working, worshipping, and serving in Baltimore County, Md., with her husband of 16 years, three daughters, and mother-in-love.

Ann Kolakowski, CAP[®], CFRE joined the University System of Maryland as Director of Gift Planning Services in February 2022. She works with the 12 member campuses to provide expertise on planned gifts and create programs to build planned giving skills among the System's major gift fundraisers. Prior to her current position, Ann served in planned giving roles for the Humane Society of the United States, Towson University (her undergraduate alma mater), and The Johns Hopkins University (where she earned an MA in creative writing). The

immediate past President of the National Capital Gift Planning Council, Ann has earned the Chartered Advisor in Philanthropy® (CAP®) credential from the American College of Financial Services and is a Certified Fund Raising Executive. She enjoys practicing guitar, walking her three dogs, and listening to podcasts—just not all at once.

E. John McKee is Acting Associate Vice President of Philanthropy at the University of Maryland, Baltimore. John has been in higher education in major and planned giving roles for 20 years, serving at Gallaudet University and University of Maryland, College Park, before joining the staff at UMB in February 2018. John earned his BA at Yale University and his MA at the University of Delaware in its Winterthur Program, working as a museum curator and director before moving into fundraising full time. A native of Seattle, John now lives in Baltimore City within walking distance to UMB's campus.

Rebecca Rothey, CFRE, CAP®, AEP® has held multiple charitable gift planning roles, most recently serving from 2016 to 2022 as Chief Philanthropy Officer at the Greater Washington Community Foundation and currently as Senior Advisor to the Executive Office. Previously, she was a Director of Gift Planning at The Johns Hopkins University and Medicine and Director of Planned and Principal Gifts at Catholic Charities of Baltimore. Her community foundation experience includes three years as Director of Major and Planned Giving at the Baltimore Community Foundation. Rebecca is a member of the editorial advisory board of Planned Giving Today. She has served on the board of the Baltimore Estate Planning Council and is a past president of the Chesapeake Planned Giving Council. Her undergraduate degree in philosophy from the Notre Dame of Maryland University, from which she graduated summa cum laude, serves as the foundation for all her work. She is known for her stylish eyeglasses.