THE TOP 100 MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE

- Who they are p. 42
- The challenges they see p. 44
- Their take on tax reform p. 48
- The devices they can’t live without p. 55
- Who they think is influential p. 56

Sponsored by: ADP®
The Top 100 People: Always a work in progress

WELCOME BACK!

Every year at this time of year we welcome back our readers to our annual Top 100 Most Influential People in Accounting list, and we welcome back some of the members of the previous year’s list, too.

But not all of the members of the previous year’s list — or all of our readers. Every year, it’s a different list, and a different set of readers. Because accounting is changing, growing and evolving; it’s a work in progress, and so our list has to be a work in progress, too.

As technology grows more important in accounting, we include new IT experts; as new regulatory bodies are formed, we add new regulators; as more Millennials and Gen Ys rise to positions of importance, more of them will appear among the Top 100; as the profession explores more new specialities, we’ll add experts from those fields; and as more women and minorities (hopefully) join the profession, we’ll add more women and minorities.

Our list is different from the profession mainly in that, to make room for the new arrivals, we have to remove some previous members. The profession is large, and contains multitudes; our list is constrained, and capped at 100. Being removed is no slight, and no reflection on the individual; if you were influential enough to have made the list in the past, your influence won’t be diminished by not being named here.

But we must move with the times, as the profession does, and make room for new people, new thoughts, new ideas and new visions. For a profession that’s supposed to be conservative (even staid), accounting welcomes an awful lot of change into its ranks. And so each year our editors make a list of the people playing the biggest roles in the ongoing work that is the accounting profession — and then make room for the new arrivals, its “best of breed” Trusted Business Advisor Solutions.


Erik Asgeirsson
CFO, CPA2Biz

Augsburg has overseen the evolution of CPA2Biz from the AICPA’s product and services marketing arm to a force leading the industry’s shift toward the next wave of accounting technology. CPA2Biz now has its own products and services to market, as well as those of its “best of breed” Trusted Business Advisor Solutions.


Erik Asgeirsson
CFO, CPA2Biz

Rick Anderson
Chairman and CEO, Moss Adams

While the Financial Accounting Foundation didn’t take the most famous of the headline recommendations of the Blue Ribbon Panel that Anderson chaired — namely, that it establish a totally independent standard-setter for private companies — his panel’s ideas did significantly shape the final form of the Private Company Council.


Other Affiliations: Chair, Blue Ribbon Panel on Private Entity Accounting Standards, AICPA, FAF and NASBA … Vice chair, Praxity Management Board and Governing Council … Past member, AICPA Council; past chair, Major Firms Group … Past trustee, Financial Accounting Foundation.


August Aquila
President and CEO, Aquila Global Advisors

Well-known for his expertise in firm management and succession planning, Aquila — like the profession itself — has been busy expanding globally, with clients as far-flung as Australia and India.


Other Affiliations: Founding board member and Hall of Fame member, Association for Accounting Marketing … Founder, Partner Advantage, 2003-2006 … Author, CPA Firm Merger Strategies That Work; CPAs That Sell, Breaking the Paradigm: New Approaches to Pricing Accounting Services; Client at the Core: Marketing and Managing Today’s Professional Services Firm; Compensation as a Strategic Asset; Performance Is Everything; What Successful Managing Partners Do … Contributing author, The Marketing Advantage, How to Hire a Marketing Director and Make It Work; The Power of Optimism; Bull’s Eye! The Ultimate How-To Marketing & Sales Guide for CPAs … Board member, Anchor Bank NA and Anchor Bank Holding Co.; chair, Compensation Award Committee, Anchor Bank … Associate member, AICPA.

Education: Indiana University, Ph.D … DePaul University, MBA, BA.

John Ams
Executive vice president, NSA

Ams is a major source of information and guidance to his more than 30,000 members on issues that matter to them, like the new preparer registration rules, and is even better placed now to look out for their interests as a member of the IRS Advisory Council.
Jon Baron
Managing director, Professional Segment, Thomson Reuters Tax & Accounting
A true veteran of the accounting software market, Baron brings the sort of perspective and deep knowledge of user needs that helps keep Thomson Reuters a leading vendor.


Education: Boston University, 1982, MBA ... Siena College, 1974, BBA Acctg.
Personal: Born 1952, Colchester, Vt. ... Married to Betsy ... Four children.

Joanne Barry
Executive director, NYSSCPA
As head of one of the few state CPA societies to grow its membership in the past few years, Barry is definitely doing something right—like seeing New York’s mobility law pass, forging a stronger relationship with near-neighbor FASB, and helping renew the profession’s focus on major issues like diversity.

Career Highlights: Executive director, New York State Society of CPAs, 2010–present; Executive director, Foundation for Accounting Education, 2010–present; deputy executive director, 2008–2009; assistant director of public information and publications editor, Hackensack Medical Center, 1980–1981 ...

Education: New School for Social Research, 1967, law degree; 1964, BA.
Personal: Born 1941, Helena, Mont. ... Divorced ... One son.

Paul Beswick
Acting chief accountant, SEC
Beswick may have risen with the rather sudden departure of his boss, James Kroeker, but he’s no stranger to the issues of the day, having been a major player on the SEC’s IFRS team for some time.

Education: Miami University, 1994, BS Acctg.
Personal: Born 1964, Helena, Mont. ... Divorced ... One son.

Chandra Bhansali
President, AccountantsWorld
With his vision of “accountant-centric” software and his history as a pioneer of the cloud (before it even was “the cloud”), Bhansali and his company are natural leaders as the profession finally gets its head into the clouds.

Career Highlights: President and co-founder, AccountantsWorld, 1999–present ... President and co-founder, Micro Vision Software Inc., 1986–2002 ...
Other Activities: CEO Club ... Will & Vision Foundation, IEEE ... ACM ... Board of Advisors, Infosys International.
Education: State University of New York, 1979, B.P.L.D ... Indiana Institute of Science, 1970; MS ... IBM Enig-
The intellectual capital set to retire in the profession — and in this country — is staggering! And Baby Boomer CPAs are not doing what they need to in terms of leadership development and delegation to develop the next generation. — Jennifer Wilson

Leadership. As a profession, we’ve done relatively little to develop future leaders. — Gale Crosby

The aging of the profession. This includes the CPAs in firms and industry, as well as the academic community that trains the next generation of CPAs. — John Sharbaugh

The departure of the Baby Boomer generation as leaders in the volunteer organizations serving the CPA profession. In many instances, the trailing generations have not demonstrated an interest in pursuing volunteer engagement or leadership opportunities/roles. — Clarke Price

Clearly, the next generation of partners. In 1990, 2 percent of college graduates got an accounting degree, and 10 years later, only 1 percent of college graduates got an accounting degree. — Allan Kolbin

The war for the best talent. Attracting and retaining the best and the brightest is a critical issue we all face. — John Vehslage

Meeting the career aspirations of future generations, while modifying our business model to meet the ever-increasing complexity of the business climate, will be a huge challenge and opportunity. — Gordon Vreem

Changing the firm business model is the most important issue. ... Will this be easy or quick? Absolutely not. Will we see new models emerge and prosper in the next five to 10 years? Absolutely yes! — Sandra Wiley

The slow pace of firm transition to next-generation status. That is, moving to a more efficient, social and collaborative way of conducting business. ... Those who don’t get on board will be left behind. — Jody Padar

The possibility that the Mayan calendar is wrong and there will be a 2013 busy season. — Caleb Nervquist

Many of the replies we received came with impressive analysis that was, unfortunately, too long for this space. For the full answers of all our 1,100 candidates, visit Accounting-Today.com.
counting industry. Once a “One to Watch,” he has evolved into a true thought leader, as CPAs of all ages are looking — and listening — to his vision of the profession’s future.


Other Affiliations: CITP Credentials Committee, AICPA; CITP Exam Task Force Chair; AICPA; Conference Steering Committee, AICPA Tech+ … Board of Directors, Kansas Society of CPAs; Champion of Technology Committee.

Education: University of Texas at Austin, 2006, MBA Marketing/Entrepreneurship … Kansas State University, 1999, BS Accctg/MIS.

Personal: Born 1976, Manhattan, Kan. … Married to Mary … One son and one daughter.

Twitter: @jimbourke

Jim Bourke
Partner, WithumSmith+Brown

If Bourke’s passion for helping fellow CPAs understand and accept new technology could be turned to rain, the Midwest drought would be over. While actively staying ahead of the curve on accounting-related technology, he remains an advocate for his own firm and the profession as a whole.


Other Affiliations: Past president, New Jersey Society of CPAs … Board of Directors and Council member, AICPA; past chair, CITP Credential Committee; chair, AICPA Tech+ Conference; … Board member, N.J. Technology Council … Board member, Camp Zehnder YMCA.

Education: Kean University, 1987, BS Accctg.


Twitter: @jimbourke

Jim Buttonow
Co-founder and vice president of product development, New River Innovation

A long-time IRS vet who pulls back the curtain to show practitioners how the service really operates, Buttonow is also opening their eyes to the many profitable opportunities in post-filing services — and is developing new tools to help.


Other Affiliations: Tax Section, AICPA; IT Section … North Carolina Association of CPAs … Westover Church.

Education: Florida Atlantic University, postgraduate work … University of South Florida, 1987, BS Accctg.

Personal: Born 1964, South Hampton, N.Y. … Married to Heather … Two children.

Blog: IRSmind.com

Rep. Dave Camp
R-Mich.

The head of the powerful House Ways & Means Committee is one of the key gatekeepers of tax legislation — and will be one of the major determinants of the likelihood of tax reform in the near future.


Paul Caron
Publisher and editor-in-chief, TaxProf Blog

As the publisher and editor-in-chief of one of the most widely read tax blogs on the Internet, this tax professor opens the door to his own opinions and the opinions of other professionals in the increasingly complex world of tax.


Other Affiliations: Co-owner and editor-in-chief, Law Professor Blogs Network … Series editor, Law Stories; Graduate Tax Service, … Author or co-author, Tax Stories; Federal Wealth Transfer Taxation; Federal Income Tax Anthology.

Education: Boston University, 1988, LL.M (Tax) … Cornell Law School, 1983, JD … Georgetown University, 1979, AB.


Richard Caturano
Incoming chair, AICPA

Having been on our list back before he sold his namesake Boston firm to McGladrey, the new chair of the institute is no stranger to wielding influence, and he’ll need all he can muster as he tackles one of the profession’s thorniest issues: why it isn’t more diverse.


Other Affiliations: Passenger, AICPA Executive Committee, AICPA; Special Committee on Mobility; past member, Staffing Task Force and PCPS Communications Task Force … Past president, Massachusetts Society of CPAs … Board, Baker Tilly – U.S. … Past board member, National Foundation for Teaching Entrepreneurship … Managing director, VCC Foundation.


Personal: Born 1952, Boston … Married to Barbara … Two adult children.

Richard Chambers
President and CEO, IIA

Under Chambers’ leadership, the IIA is seeing major growth in both members and influence. He has fostered a host of new initiatives, from exploring social media and creating a new international conference, to conducting one of the most in-depth studies of internal auditing anywhere.


Other Affiliations: Member, COSO Board … Past member, Blue Ribbon Committee for Audit Effectiveness, NACD … Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.

Education: Salve Regina University, 1994, MA International Relations … Georgia State University, 1978, MBA Management; 1975, BBA Accounting.

Personal: Born 1954, Ft. McClellan, Ala. … Married to Kimberly … Three daughters.

Blog/Twitter: “Chambers on the Profession” (www. theia.org/blogs/chambers/) @rfchambers

David Cieslak
Principal, Arxis Technology

Cieslak wears many hats: CPA, CITP, Inspector Gadget, and principal of a top accounting technology reseller and consultancy. But what he is best recognized for is his extensive and trusted knowledge of where technology is, where it’s going, and how it can help or hinder businesses and accounting practices around the country.


Other Affiliations: Chair, Sage Accpac Business Partners Advisory Council … Past chair, AICPA IT Executive Committee … Past board member, Information Technology Alliance … Council, CalCPA … Past president, California CPA Education Foundation … Member and past chair, CalCPA State Technology Committee … Associate instructor, K2 Enterprises.

Education: University of California, 1982, BA Economics.

Personal: Born 1959, Binghamton, N.Y. … Married to Michelle … Two children.

Twitter: @dcieslak

Stephen Chipman
CEO, Grant Thornton

Even as he executes the long-term strategy he put in place at his Top Six firm, Chipman is a high-profile figure in major professional debates, like those on auditor rotation and the future of the private New Private Company Council.


Other Affiliations: Board member, Center for Audit Quality; Chicago Council on Global Affairs; Ravinia Festival; Half the Sky … Economic Club of Chicago … British-American Business Council … Past board member, Greater Dallas Chamber of Commerce; Dallas Winston Scholars Foundation … Past trustee, Greater Dallas Youth Orchestra; Special Care and Career Services.

Education: Plymouth College, Plymouth, U.K.


Blog: “Stephens site” (internal)
Gale Crosley
President, Crosley+Co.
Crosley’s big theme in her consulting work is growth, a concept she has watched evolve over her years as an industry veteran from internal business development to new international markets and niche expansion, and about which she speaks and writes prolifically.

Career Highlights:
- Founder and president, Crosley+Co., 2001-present ...
- Executive vice president of sales and marketing, AnswerThink Consulting Group, 1998-2000 ...
- Founder and president, Synchrony Networks, 1995-1998 ...
- Vice president of marketing, VoiceCom Systems, 1994-1995 ...
- Director of marketing and senior director of sales, MCS, 1989-1994 ...
- Independent consultant, 1987-1989 ...
- Sales rep, product manager, sales manager, marketing manager, IBM, 1975-1987 ...
- Staff auditor, Price Waterhouse, 1973-1975 ...

Other Affiliations:
- Advisory Board, Journal of Accountancy ...
- AICPA ...
- Georgia Society of CPAs ...
- Ohio Society of CPAs ...
- Author, At the Courtroads.

Education:
- University of Akron, 1972, BS, Accgt.

Personal:
- Born 1951, Cleveland ...
- Married to Steven ...
- Two children.

Twitter: @gcrosley

Loretta Doon
CEO, California Society of CPAs
During her time as CEO of the nation’s largest state accounting society, Doon has led several CalCPA initiatives aimed at young professionals, such as the CalCPA Institute, the CalCPA Education Foundation, a campus ambassador program and the emerging leaders certificate program.

Career Highlights:
- Chief executive officer, California Society of CPAs, California CPA Education Foundation and CalCPA Institute, 2006-present; chief operating officer, 2005-2006 ...
- Associate executive director, California Teachers Association, 1979-2005 ...
- Auditor, Ernst & Young, 1976-1979 ...

Other Affiliations:
- Board member, CPA SEA ...
- Board member, Schwab Charitable Fund ...
- AICPA Private Companies Practice Section Executive Committee ...
- Center for Financial Reporting and Management Advisory Board, Haas School of Business, UC Berkeley ...
- Advisory board, Charles W. Lidden School of Accountancy Advisory Board, San Diego State University ...
- Menlo College Advisory Board ...
- American Woman’s Society of CPAs ...
- Financial Women’s Association of San Francisco ...
- Mentor, Ascend ...
- Board member, ACAP Northern California ...
- Past member, AICPA Council ...
- Former commissioner, California State Lottery ...

Education:
- San Francisco State University, Master’s in Education ...
- University of Hawaii, BA.

Blog/Twitter: Internal blog / @ldoon

James Doty
Chairman, PCAOB
There can be no question of “regulatory capture” here: Doty has fearlessly pursued the notion of mandatory auditor rotation, despite its being near-universally hated by the professional he regulates. Which, when you think about it, is the sort of thing you want from a regulator.

Career Highlights:
- Chairman, Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, 2011-present ...
- Partner, Baker Botts LLP, 1992-2011 ...
- Joined 1989 ...

Other Affiliations:
- American Law Institute ...
- American Bar Association International For- mers ...
- Past member, Legal Advisory Board, NASD.

Education:
- Yale Law School, 1969, LLB ...
- Harvard University, MA in History ...
- Oxford University, 1964, AB (Rhodes Scholar) ...
- Rice University, Texas, 1962, BA in History.

Personal:
- Born in Houston.

Cindy Fornelli
Executive director, Center for Audit Quality
Fornelli works hard on two fronts — explaining how auditing works to the investing public through outreach like the Center for Audit Quality’s “Ledger Lines” videos, and providing expert analysis and information to the regulators and others who are shaping the future of auditing.

Career Highlights:
- Executive director, Center for Audit Quality, 2006-present ...
- Regulatory and conflicts management executive, Bank of America, 2004-2006 ...
- Deputy director, Division of Investment Management, Securities and Exchange Commission, 1999-2004 ...
- Senior associate, Derchter, 1996-1999 ...
- Fred Harris Sherer & Jacobson, 1991-1996 ...
- American Bar Association ...
- Financial Accounting Standards Advisory Council ...
- National Association of Corporate Directors’ 2010 Blue Ribbon Commission on the Audit Committee ...
- National Association of Corporate Directors’ 2009 Blue Ribbon Commission on Risk Governance ...
- Board of Trustees, Class of 2014, SEC Historical Society ...
- National Law Journal Center, George Washington University, 1991, JD ...
- Purdue University, 1985, BA.

Personal:
- Born 1960, Los Angeles.

Twitter: @thecaq

Joe Echevarria
CEO, Deloitte
Now in his sophomore year, Echevarria has seri- ous plans for the Big Four firm he heads: among other things, to lead the profession in auditing. He’s planning on leveraging the recently completed Deloitte University to help.

Career Highlights:
- CEO, Deloitte LLP, 2011-present; U.S. managing partner of operations, 2007-2011 ...

Other Affiliations:
- Board, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Ltd. ...
- Orange Bowl Committee ...
- Corporate Advisory Board, Association of Latino Professionals in Finance and Accounting ...
- Member, Board of Overseers, and executive in residence, University of Miami in Coral Gables School of Business Administration.

Education:
- University of Miami in Coral Gables, BBA.

Personal:
- Married to Ana ...
- Three children.

Blog: “ChannelOne” (internal); guest blog on CNBC, Fox Business, Fast Company.

Chris Frederiksen
Chairman, The 2020 Group
Frederiksen has built and sold four separate suc- cessful practices in his career, which uniquely suits him to advise practitioners on the entire firm life cycle.

Career Highlights:
- Chairman, The 2020 Group, 2006-present ...
- Managing partner, Frederiksen-Crawford CPAs, 2007-present ...
- West Coast partner, Transition Advisors, 2011-present ...
- Managing part- ner, Frederiksen & Co. CPAs, 1984-2000 ...

Other Affiliations:
- AICPA ...
- California Society of CPAs ...
- Author, Successful Partnership Agreements for CPAs; Accountant’s Direct Marketing Kit ...
- Successful Business Kit ...
- Past chair, American Federation of Art ...
- Past president, Art Museum Association of America ...
- Founder, Museum Management Institute, UC Berkeley.

Education:
- Columbia College, 1996-1998 ...
- Irvine Valley College, 1988-1990 ...

Personal:
- Born 1966, Long Beach, Calif ...
- Four children, one grandson.

Blog/Twitter: “Golden Practices” (www.golden-practices.com) / @michellegolden
Jeff Gramlich
President, CCH
Small Firm Services, a Wolters Kluwer business

Gramlich has built his company into a position of leadership through his introduction of cutting-edge technology and integrated tax and accounting suites — and by zealously serving the small practitioner.

Career Highlights:

Other Affiliations:
CPAs ... Texas Society of CPAs.

Education:
University of Arkansas, 1982 BSBA Accounting.

Personal:
Born 1960, Fort Smith, Ark. ... Married to Mary Beth ... Three children.

Twitter: @jeffgfls

Sen. Chuck Grassley
R-Iowa

Grassley, a member of the Senate Finance Committee and its former chair, plays a major role in drafting and shepherding major tax legislation — and isn’t above holding up a nomination or two when he needs to get the attention of the IRS, as he did this year.

Career Highlights:
Past chair, Finance Committee, U.S. Senate; senior member; Budget Committee; Judiciary Committee; elected, 1980 ... U.S. House of Representatives, 1974-1989 ... Assembly line worker, 1961-1971 ... Iowa Legislative, 1958-1975.

Other Affiliations:
Farm Bureau ... International Association of Machinists, 1962-1971 ... International Parliamentary Group for Human Rights.

Education:
University of Iowa, Ph.D. work ... University of Northern Iowa, 1956, MA Political Science; 1953, BA Political Science.

Personal:
Born 1933, New Hartford, Iowa ... Married to Barbara ... Five children, nine grandchildren.

Larry Gray
Government liaison, NATP

This practitioner, educator and representative of the tax professional community offers a unique perspective on issues affecting practitioners, and helps explain their needs to regulators and legislators.

Career Highlights:
Partner, Allermann Gray & Co. CPA LLC, 1977-present.

Other Affiliations:
Government liaison and past president, National Association of Tax Professionals ... Modernized e-File 1040 Executive Committee, IRS Electronic Tax Administration Advisory Committee — past member, IRS Advisory Committee ... Past president, Missouri State Board of Accountancy ... Past member, Computerized CPA Exam Committee, AICPA ... Enforcement Practice Committee, NASBA ... Instructor, National Society of Accountants ... Instructor, Missouri Society of CPAs ... Contributing editor, Annual Income Tax Book, University of Illinois.

Education:
University of Missouri, 1977, BA.

Personal:
Born 1965, Salem, Mo. ... Two adult children.

Blog/Twitter: @agc.cpa

Angie Grissom
Executive vice president and COO, The Rainmaker Consulting Group

Grissom actively speaks and writes on firm leadership, with a recent focus on partner accountability and strategic planning. Her expertise on new business development, recruitment and retention is also highly coveted by CPA firms striving to grow their practices.

Career Highlights:

Other Affiliations:
President, ASWA Music City Chapter ... National Speaker’s Association ... CPA Consultants Alliance ... Institute of Management Consultants ... Growth Strategies Committee, AAM.

Education:
Middle Tennessee State University, 2014, MBA (in process); 2000, BBA.

Personal:
Born 1977, Nashville, Tenn. ... Married to Chad ... Two children.

Blog/Twitter: www.therainmakercompanies.com/blog / @agrissom

Roger Harris
President and COO, Padgett Business Services

This veteran tax pro knows his way around Washington, and is frequently called upon by both government and practitioners for his practical wisdom on issues affecting the profession.

Career Highlights:

Other Affiliations:
Past chair, Federal Tax Committee, National Society of Accountants ... Past chair, Internal Revenue Service Advisory Council ... Chair, Legislative Affairs Subcommittee, National Association of Enrolled Agents ... President, Padgett Foundation ... Treasurer, Padgett Business Services PAC.

Education:
University of Georgia Terry College of Business, 1973; BBA Accounting.

Personal:
Born 1956, Athens, Ga. ... Two children ... Two grandchildren.

Sen. Orrin Hatch
R-Utah

As the top Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, Hatch has been outspoken on all matters relating to tax, from exploring new possibilities for tax reform to warning the IRS not to show a partisan interest in certain campaign donors.

Career Highlights:
Ranking member, Banking Committee, Finance Committee, U.S. Senate; elected, 1976 ... Private law practice ... Band manager, The Free Agency (Mormon folk band).

Other Affiliations:
Federalist Society ... Board member, U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum.

Education:
University of Pittsburgh, 1962, JD; Brigham Young University, 1949, BA History.

Personal:
Born 1934, Pittsburgh ... Married to Elaine ... Six children.

Karen Hawkins
Director, IRS Office of Professional Responsibility

As head of the OPR, Hawkins’ role in overseeing Circular 230 enforcement will continue to expand with the national treasurer, Morehouse College National Alumni Association ... Past treasurer and board member, Maryland New Directions.

Education:

Personal:
Born 1969, Richmond, Va. ... Married to Monisha ... One daughter.

Twitter: @calvinhjr / @harvinconsult

Calvin Harris
National president and chairman of the board, NABA

The profession’s record on encouraging diversity is mixed, to put it mildly, but with staff shortages focusing minds and the AICPA gearing up for another push, Harris and NABA are well-positioned to help.

Career Highlights:

Other Affiliations:
National president and chairman of the board, National Association of Black Accountants ... Advisory Board, Howard University School of Business Center for Accounting Education ... Past national treasurer, Morehouse College National Alumni Association ... Past treasurer and board member, Maryland New Directions.

The forecast for tax reform

We asked the T100 if we were likely to see large-scale tax reform in the next year; they split the issue — three ways.

I do not believe so. Tax reform is like a balanced budget: Everyone says they want it, but everyone wants a different version.

— John Ams

The last time we saw major federal tax reform, in 1986, it was a product of Democrats and Republicans from both houses working together to effect change. No such working relationship currently exists.

— Joanne Barry

I do not think we will see large-scale tax reform because it is too risky. We probably need significant changes to our tax system, but to do so in our current economic climate would be completely reckless and irresponsible because our standard economic models cannot predict the end results.

— Parnell Black

Not likely — there are no political leaders who can effectively communicate how and why this needs to be done, and the special interests are so entrenched, making any changes slow and incremental.

— Tom Hood

The likelihood of the passage of large-scale reform in the next 12 months is extremely remote. The interest in corporate and international reform will continue but little will be accomplished through the end of 2012 — setting the stage for more serious activity in 2013. Congressional hearings on corporate and international reform are likely to take place in the first half of 2013, but passage of legislation is unlikely until the latter stages of 2013 or possibly in 2014.

— Edward Karl

The last time we achieved meaningful tax reform was during a period of divided government, but tax reform is going to be a much harder lift for either of the parties this time, and that makes it nearly impossible to achieve.

— Ralph Thomas

Our clients repeatedly tell us in surveys and conversations that they believe nothing significant will happen on the corporate or personal tax front before 2013 — and I agree.

— John Veihmeyer
It is unlikely that large-scale reform on the order of the Tax Reform Act of 1986 is in our future in 2013. However, it does seem likely, if not necessary, that some less extensive reforms will take place to reduce the gap between revenues and expenditures.

— J. Russell George

Large-scale tax reform will not occur in the next year, but it will most likely occur in the next four years. Reform will most likely be a modification to our system that will reduce complexity for lower-income taxpayers and provide economic business incentives. … What will most likely emerge in the next 10 years is a universal approach to many state tax issues, in particular sales and income taxes related to interstate commerce.

— Jim Buttonow

Large-scale tax reform is not likely until 2013. Even then, the priorities and impact on a new Tax Code will need to be assessed in the context of the country’s entire fiscal situation. There is no question that large-scale tax reform is needed; the question of timing and the political will to take on this national need remains open.

— Joe Echevarria

I think it is coming but it may not be in the next year. I think we will see it in the next five years. The last serious tax reform effort took place in 1986, meaning we are overdue.

— Angie Grisom

Both Obama and Romney have such different plans for both income and estate taxes, so the outcome of the election will have a significant impact on tax reform in 2012.

— Tom Marino

There is one area where consensus is building: Our corporate tax rate is one of the highest of the developed economies, and both sides acknowledge the need to lower that rate. … It is too low, and a lower rate would spur reform with simple, fair or less expensive.

— Roger Harris

The tax laws that are about to expire will probably get extended; large-scale tax reform will happen after the presidential election. Most likely the corporate tax rate will be reduced to encourage companies to bring jobs back to the U.S.

— Randy Johnston

The budget deficit will force the president in 2013 to start making changes, as the borrowing cannot go on forever. Thus, cutting spending alone won’t be enough and we will see tax reform.

— Joel Sinkin

I believe that it is extremely likely. … I am hoping we see a balance of spending cuts, tax increases and changes to some of the top tax brackets. … Instead of focusing on massive change to just one area, I think if we made smaller changes across all areas, it would lead to a healthier economic climate.

— Jennifer Warawa

expansion of the new Registered Tax Return Preparer regime.


Other Affiliations: Founder, San Francisco Pro Se/ Pro Bono Tax Court Project … California Bar Association … American College of Tax Counsel … Author, LexisNexis California State Tax Practice Insights.


John Hewitt
Founder and CEO, Liberty Tax Service

As co-founder of Jackson-Hewitt and sole founder of the booming Liberty Tax Service, Hewitt is a major leader in the tax prep business.


Other Affiliations: Co-founder, Stop Hunger Now; Run For Food.


Personal: Born 1949, Detroit … Divorced … Five children, nine grandchildren.

Marie Hollein
President and CEO, FEI

Hollein’s FEI is an overflowing font of useful information on corporate finance, producing must-read reports on everything from audit fees to the top challenges facing finance departments around the world.


Education: Carnegie Mellon University, Master of Finance and Management … Laloche College, BS.

Personal: Born in Pittsburgh … Married to David … Two children.

Tom Hood
CEO and executive director, MACPA

In the last year, Hood helped facilitate interactive future forum sessions through MACPA’s Business Learning Institute as part of the AICPA’s recently completed grassroots CPA Horizons 2025 report on global trends and future insights within the profession. He also guided the launch of MACPA’s Center for Transparency, Performance Management and Accountability using XBRL.


Other Affiliations: President and CEO, Business Learning Institute Inc. … Past president, CPA State Executives Association … Board member, Shared Services LLC … CPE Advisory Committee, AICPA; CPA Horizons 2025; former member, Special Committee on Mobility, Special Committee on Enhanced Business Reporting; past chair, CPA Vision Project … Co-chair, Board of Directors, State Societies Network Inc. … American Society of Association Executives … Finance Committee, McDonough School.

Education: Johns Hopkins University, 1994, MS Finance – Real Estate … University of Baltimore, 1982, Master’s equivalent — Information Systems … Loyola College of Maryland, 1977, BA Accounting.

Personal: Born 1959, Baltimore … Married to Sharon … Three boys.

Hans Hoogervorst
Chairman, IASB

As he waits in hope of the U.S. adopting international standards, the patience of the head of the board that sets IFRS seems to be waning — but his constant hectoring calls for the U.S. to adopt may turn out to be counterproductive.

Pascal Houillon
President and CEO, Sage North America

Agree with his vision or not, it can’t be denied that Houillon has had an impact. With his “tough love” approach, he is overseeing a major effort to bring the North American division’s breadth of products under one brand, all while trying to remain relevant to accountants and stay competitive in an increasingly crowded space.


Other Affiliations: Past president, Syntec (French software and IT association).

Education: Insead, Advanced Management Program ... Université Paris Sud, 1986; Computer Science ... Université Panthéon Assas, 1984, Economie.

Personal: Born 1962, Lyon, France ... Four children.

Edward Karl
Vice president of taxation, AICPA

As the institute’s point man on tax, Karl is responsible for the formulation and review of the institute’s tax policy recommendations to the IRS, the Treasury and Congress.


Other Affiliations: Greater Washington Society of CPAs ... Maryland Association of CPAs ... American Society of Association Executives.

Education: University of Maryland, 1975, BS Acctg.

Personal: Born 1954, Washington, D.C. ... Married to Pam ... Four children.

Rita Keller
President, Keller Advisors

Keller is a consistent voice in the profession, through her numerous speaking engagements and on her award-winning blog. This year she was also one of five co-founders of the CPA Consultants Alliance and is working with the AICPA to build a network of HR professionals.

Career Highlights: President and founder, Keller Advisors LLC, 2008-present ... Shareholder and chief operating officer, Brady Ware CPAs, 1978-2008.

Other Affiliations: Planning Committee, AICPA Practitioners’ Symposium & Techs ... Member Services Council, Ohio CPA Society ... New Horizon Group of CPA Consultants ... Past board member and national president, Association for Accounting Administration ... Advisory Board, CPA Practice Management Forum; AICPA Seasonality Success Newsletter ... Columnist, CPA Practice Management Forum ... Contributor, AICPA PCPS Human Capital Center; AICPA MAP Handbook ... Founding member, CPA Consultants Alliance.

Education: St. Mary of the Woods College.

Personal: Born in New Paris, Ohio ... Married to Darrell ... One son, two granddaughters.

Erinn Keserica
President, AAM

As the new president of AAM, Keserica brings experience as a national speaker, author and seven-time national marketing achievement award-winner to an association gaining wider visibility through its new event partnership with the AICPA’s annual Practitioners Symposium and TECH+ conference.

Career Highlights: Regional marketing manager, Cherry Bekaert & Holland, 2012-present ... Director of marketing, Frazier & Deeter, 2001-2012.

Other Affiliations: President, Association for Accounting Marketing; joined, 2001 ... Editorial Advisory Board, CCH Practice Management Forum ... Leukemia & Lymphoma Society.

Education: Georgia State University, 1988, BA Journalism.

Personal: Born 1975, Chicago ... Married to Gene ... Two daughters.

Allan Koltin
CEO, Koltin Consulting Group

On the one hand, there’s the behind-the-scenes Koltin, quietly helping structure deals and restructure firms all over the country. On the other, there’s the public Koltin, speaking, educating, sharing the best of what he’s learning behind the scenes. Combine the two and you’ve got one of the most influential players in the profession.


Other Affiliations: Founding member, The Advisory Board ... Publisher/author, Successful Merger & Acquisition Strategies; CPAs That Sell, How to Market a Consulting Niche ... Past board member, Outsource Partners International, NACA; H&R Block Business Services Group; Association for Accounting Marketing ... Editorial Advisory Board, CPA Practice Management Forum; Late Firm Management.

Education: University of Wisconsin, 1980, BS Accounting and Marketing.

Personal: Born 1957, Milwaukee ... Married to Shara ... Three children.

Mark Koziel
Vice president of firm services & global alliances, AICPA

Koziel is a familiar speaker at the AICPA’s expanding roster of specialized events, while continuing to oversee the institute’s international advisor practice work and relationship development with international accounting bodies.


Other Affiliations: Board, Information Technology Alliance ... Past board member, Southeastern Soft-
Ivan Mackintosh  
Vice chairman, IASB  
The more technical part of the IASB’s leadership, Mackintosh has his hands full with the usual business of a standard-setter, while trying to iron out all the really contentious convergence issues that were saved for last.


Barry Melanson  
Vice president and CEO, AICPA  
Few have as strong a grasp of the way the profession works now, and even fewer have as strong a grasp of where it’s headed—in part because he’s playing a leading role in choosing the destination.


James Metzler  
Vice president of small firm interests, AICPA  
Long a practitioner himself, Metzler has gone a long way to easing the perception that the institute didn’t care about small firms, with his constant advocacy, frequent speaking engagements, and regular dispensation of great advice and useful knowledge.


Other Affiliations: Past president, Buffalo Chapter, New York State Society of CPA’s … Council of Accountancy, Canisius College … Advisory Council, Association for Accounting Marketing … Outside board, Perry’s Ice Cream Co.

Education: Canisius College, 1972, BS Accounting.

Krista Maccusto  
CEO, CliftonLarsonAllen  
McMasters made a splash as the first woman to head a large firm, but late last year she made an even bigger splash by making an even bigger merger with Gordy Viere’s LarsonAllen.


Other Affiliations: Past member, Blue Ribbon Panel on Private Entity Accounting Standards … Past member-at-large, AICPA Council, past member, Quality Control Inquiry Committee; past member, SECPs Peer Review Committee; past member, Accounting Standards Executive Committee … Past member, Financial Accounting Standards Advisory Council; co-chair, Assessing & Responding to Audit Risk Guide Task Force … Past member, Professional Practice Executive Committee, Center for Audit Quality … Illinois CPA Society … Wisconsin CPA Society.


Robert Moritz  
Chairman and senior partner, PwC  
Now in his fourth year at the helm, Moritz continues to focus on building up his Big Four firm’s staff, and adding to its capabilities through strategic mergers.


Other Affiliations: Governing Board, Center for Audit Quality … AICPA … New York State Society of CPA’s … New Jersey Society of CPA’s … Partnership for New York City … Atlantic Council.


Zach Nelson  
President and CEO, NetSuite  
While ERP in the cloud is still a ways off for many product makers, NetSuite has managed to make its mark in the area, and Nelson has been the ever-present (and efervescent) force behind the company. Over the past year, his company renewed its focus on the profession and has signed on several top partners, including Big Four firm Deloitte.


Other Affiliations: Board member, NetSuite … Pat-ent holder. 

Education: Stanford University, MA, BS. Personal: Born 1961, Omaha, Neb. … Married to Elizabeth … One daughter.

Barrett Obama  
President of the United States  
Tax issues are headlining the current election, promising interesting times post- November, whoever wins. In the meantime, many are just recognizing the significant tax provisions in his signature health care reform law.


Other Affiliations: Founding board member, Public Allies … Past board member, Woods Fund of Chi-cago; Joyce Foundation; Chicago Annenberg Chal-lenge; Center for Neighborhood Technology. 

Education: Harvard Law School, 1991, JD … Colum-bia University, 1983, BA.

Personal: Born 1961, Honolulu … Married to Mi-chelle … Two daughters.

Caleb Newquist  
Founder, Going Concern  
Newquist’s snarky dispatches on big firm news make his Web site a popular bookmark for CPAs, especially the younger professionals who provide some of its more provocative (and news-making) tips, as well as fostering an active commenter community.


Other Affiliations: Founding editor, Commentator, Community College of Denver.

Education: Colorado State University, 2003, MS … University of Nebraska at Kearney, 2002, BS.

Personal: Born 1979, Ord, Neb. Blog/Twitter: http://goingconcern.com / @going_concern and @cnewquist

Jay Nisberg  
President, Jay Nisberg & Associates  
Name a large firm, and chances are pretty good that somewhere in their history, they benefited from Nisberg’s top-level advice in one way or another, whether he managed a retreat for them, or helped them find an M&A partner.

Career Highlights: President and management con-sultant, Jay Nisberg & Associates Ltd., 1972-present.


Education: Pacific Western University, PhD., Business Administration … Detroit College of Law, non-degree program, 1968, Labor Relations Training, MA Ph.D Combined Program, 1970, ABD … University of Buffalo, 1968, BA Social Sciences.

Personal: Born 1946, Buffalo, NY … Married to Sally … One child.

Tom Marino  
Future co-CEO, CohnReznick  
Marino re-affirmed his chops as a deal-maker with his and Ken Baggett’s May announcement of an upcoming combination (due October 1) — and set everyone else wondering which large firms would be next.


Other Affiliations: Board of directors, Nexia International … AICPA … Trustee, Rider University; Tri-County Scholarship Fund, New Jersey Hall of Fame, Board, Somerset Hills Bank & Trust; Foundation for Preservation of the American Dream … Audit Committee Member, New Jersey Performing Arts Center.


James Metzler  
Vice president of small firm interests, AICPA  
Long a practitioner himself, Metzler has gone a long way to easing the perception that the institute didn’t care about small firms, with his constant advocacy, frequent speaking engagements, and regular dispensation of great advice and useful knowledge.


Other Affiliations: Past president, Buffalo Chapter, New York State Society of CPA’s … Council of Accountancy, Canisius College … Advisory Council, Association for Accounting Marketing … Outside board, Perry’s Ice Cream Co.

Education: Canisius College, 1972, BS Accounting.

Personal: Born 1948, Buffalo, N.Y. … Married to Jean … Three children, five grandchildren.
Top 100 People

Nina Olson
National Taxpayer Advocate, IRS

As Taxpayer Advocate for more than a decade, Olson has worked tirelessly to make the Internal Revenue Service both more accessible and more transparent, and has played a leading role in the debate that led to the tax reform preparer registration regime.

Career Highlights:

Other Affiliations:
Administrative Conference of the United States ... College of Tax Counsel; Griswold Lecturer, 2010 ... Past chair, Special Committee on Access to Legal Services, Virginia State Bar ... Past chair, Section of Taxation Law Income Tax-Payers Committee and Pro Se/Pro Bono Task Force, American Bar Association ... Faculty, Harvard Kennedy School of Government Comparative Tax Policy ... Past chair, Section of Taxation Law Low Income Tax-Payers Committee; Griswold Lecturer, 2010 ... Past president, American Bar Association User Group.

Personal: Born 1954, Philadelphia ... One child.
Blog/Twitter: www.taxpayeradvocate.irs.gov/blog / @yourvoiceatirs

Jeff Pawlow
CEO and managing shareholder, The Growth Partnership; CEO, iShade

Once (and still) a well-respected consultant to the profession, Pawlow is now also becoming a digital publisher, event coordinator, moderator, emcee and all-around host, as his iShade looks set to grow into a major online gathering point for the accounting profession.

Career Highlights:

Other Affiliations:
Coach, youth baseball ... St. Teresa Catholic Church.

Education:
Creighton University, 1991, BSBA Management.

Personal: Born 1969 ... Married to Cindy ... Four children.
Twitter: @gpcgo, @ishade

Bryan Peccarelli
President, The Tax & Accounting business of Thomson Reuters

Under Peccarelli, Thomson Reuters goes from strength to strength in serving the accounting market, improving its tools and its international presence on the corporate side, and always refining its offerings to tax and accounting professionals.

Career Highlights:
President, the Tax & Accounting business of Thomson Reuters, 2011-present ... president, Workload & Service Solutions, 2010-2011; president, corporate software, 2006; vice president and general manager, RIA/Clir, 2002; joined RIA/Clir, 1984.

Other Affiliations:
AICPA ... American Bar Association ... Texas State Board of Public Accountancy.

Education:
Southern Methodist University, MBA ... Harlan University School of Law, JD ... Carthage College, BA Acctg. and Business Administration.

Personal: Born 1960, Wisconsin ... Married to Jane ... Two children.

Clarke Price
President and CEO, Ohio Society of CPAs

Price’s 22,000 members will undoubtedly miss him when he retires at the end of the year, but at least they’ll have the satisfaction of knowing he leaves the OSCPA one of the foremost state societies on a wide range of issues.

Career Highlights:

Other Affiliations:
Past chair, American Society of Association Executives ... Chair, Shared Services LLC; State Societies Network ... Past chair, CPA Society Executives Association ... Past chair, AICPA Accountants Legal Liability Committee; AICPA Accounting Careers Committee ... U.S. Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100 ... Past chair, AssociationPAC ... Past president, Ohio Society of Association Executives ... Trustee and Audit Committee chair, Franklin University.

Education:
Franklin University, 1969, BS BA.

Personal: Born 1947, Kansas City, Mo. ... Married to Vicky ... One son.
Blog/Twitter: “CPA Speaks” (http://oscpa.wordpress.com) / @clarkeprice

Jody Padar
CEO and principal, New Vision CPA Group

This year, Padar took advantage of her prominent role within a forward-thinking group of thought leaders to host the first of what is hoped will be annual Innovation and Collaboration, or IC, Opportunities events. The “un-conference” was a forum for accounting professionals and vendors to freely share and drive their ideas for change in the profession.

Career Highlights:

Other Affiliations:
Tech Planning Committee, AICPA ... Business Learning Institute, Maryland Association of CPAs ... Adjunct professor, Oakton Community College ... Golalderp.org ... Founder and past president, Chicago QuickBooks Pro Advisor User Group.

Education:
Northern Illinois University, 2005, MST ... Saint Mary’s College, 1994, BBA.

Personal: Born 1972, Chicago ... Married to Christopher ... Two children.
Blog/Twitter: www.accountingnomore.com / @jodypadarcpa

Brian Turley
CEO, Transition Advisors

Once head of one of the original consolidators of the 1990s, Turley now combines firms as a matchmaker, instead of an acquirer, having brought together hundreds of them as head of Transition Advisors.

Career Highlights:

Other Affiliations:
Treasurer, CPA Consultants Alliance ... AICPA ... Michigan Association of CPAs ... Illinois CPA Society ... University of Kansas Accountant...
Not changing jobs, but changing how the profession uses technology, are a few more Ones to Watch from different venues: Kasey Bayne, the “accounting ambassador” from cloud-based solution provider Freshbooks; Jamie Sutherland, the U.S. face of New Zealand’s cloud solution, Xero; Therese Tucker, whose BlackLine is making a name for itself among practitioners, and the newest board member of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, Charles Boustany, R.-La., has shown a pragmatic blog posts.

Kevin Robert
CEO, Wolters Kluwer Tax & Accounting

Other Affiliations: Adjunct professor of marketing, Lake Forest Graduate School of Management.

Education: Pepperdine University, 1992, MBA ... University of New Orlean, 1978, BS Marketing.

Personal: Born 1956, New Orleans ... Married to Brenda ... Two children.

Mitt Romney
Republican presidential candidate

Other Affiliations: CEO, 2002 Winter Olympics Organizing Committee ... Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints.

Education: Harvard University, 1975, JD/ MBA ... Brigham Young University, 1971, BA.

Personal: Born 1947, Detroit ... Married to Ann ... Five sons, eighteen grandchildren.

Jim Ratley
President and CEO, ACFE
As one of the founders of one of the foremost fraud educators in the country, and its current chief, Ratley’s mission of keeping the profession and the business world abreast of the latest developments in fraud is more important than ever, as tough times push more people than ever to turn to the dark side.


Other Affiliations: Board of Advisors, Bank Direc- tors Education ... Past visiting scholar, University of Nebraska.

Education: University of Texas at Dallas, 1985, BS Business Administration.

Personal: Born 1949, Albuquerque, N.M. ... Married to Gloria ... Three daughters, one son.

Blog/Twitter: www.acfeinsights.com / @jimratley

Bonnie Buol Rusczyczk
President, BBM Marketing
In her firm-customized roles as consultant to part-time firm marketing director, Rusczyczk advises accountants on the myriad ways to disseminate their message, on a scale ranging from online bios to full marketing plans, and by tackling an even wider scope of topics in her pragmatic blog posts.


Other Affiliations: President, Atlanta Chapter, As- sociation for Accounting Marketing ... Founding member, Atlanta Independent Women’s Network ... Past board member, National Association of Women Business Owners.

Education: Georgia State University, 2001, MBA ... Troy State University, 1991, BA Journalism.

Personal: Born 1969, Lakeland, Fla. ... Married to Paul.


Marc Rosenberg
President, The Rosenberg Associates
Having spent years delving deep into practice management, Rosenberg is distilling his experience into a series of logical monographs on critical MAP subjects, even as he researches the next generation of practice.


Other Affiliations: Founder and publisher, The Rosenberg MAP Survey; Rosenberg Practice Management Monograph Series; The Rosenberg Blog ... AICPA ... ICAPAS ... Founding member, The New Horri- zons Group ... Leader, two managing partner round- tables, Next Generation Roundtable; IT Roundtable ... Ron Santos Walk for the Cure for Diabetes.

Education: University of Illinois, 1970, BS Accctg.

Personal: Born 1948, Chicago ... Married to Ellen ... Two children ... Chicago Cubs fan fanatic (still).

Blog/Twitter: http://blog.robergensassoc.com / @amarnyan
Leslie Seidman
Chairman, FASB
The new Private Company Council is not quite the rival it once seemed it might be, and Seidman’s FASB is working to create a framework to allow the two to work more effectively together — even as she pursues solutions to the last, most divisive elements of the convergence agenda.


Other Affiliations: AICPA … American Women’s Society of CPAs … Institute of Management Accountants … Author, first three editions, Financial Instruments … Youth-related charities and organizations, including A Better Chance.

Education: New York University Stern School of Business, 1985, MS Accrg. … Colgate University, 1984, BA English.

Personal: Born 1962, Utica, N.Y. … Married … One daughter.

Doug Shulman
Commissioner, IRS
Shulman will leave a lasting legacy when he exits the IRS at the end of his term in November, starting with more modernized systems and the new RTRP regime, and extending beyond to a new vision of more proactive, tech-focused tax compliance.


Other Affiliations: Past board member, Depository Trust Co.

Education: Georgetown University Law Center, JD … John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, MPA … Williams College, BA.

Joel Sinkin
President, Transition Advisors
With mergers and acquisitions apparently the only succession plan still open to many accounting firms these days, Sinkin’s unrivaled skills at valuing firms and matching them together are in high demand.


Other Affiliations: Succession advisor, AICPA; editorial advisor, Small Firm Solutions; member, Editorial Review Board, The CPA Journal … Co-author, Buying, Merging CPA Firms.

Education: SUNY Brockport, 1981.

Personal: Born 1958, Brooklyn, N.Y. … Married to Kathy … One son and one daughter.

Rick Telberg
President and CEO, CPA Trendsline Research
At one time, Telberg was ineligible for the Top 100 People list — because he created it. But he’s not here because of anything he did at Accounting Today over a decade ago. He’s here because since then he’s made CPA Trendsline a leading source of information for — and about — the practitioners who make up the vast majority of the accounting profession.


Other Affiliations: Past member, IBM Small Business Advisory Board; Hewlett-Packard Accounting Industry Panel of Influencers.


Personal: Born 1956, New York City.

Ralph Thomas
Executive Director, NACPA
Thomas’ 16,000 members get the benefit of his leadership, which has made the Jersey state society both a social media pioneer and a model workplace; the AICPA is hoping to get the benefit of that leadership on its new diversity commission.


Other Affiliations: Past Council member, Group of 100, AICPA, member, National Commission on Diversity and the Accounting Profession; member, Pre-Certification Education Executive Committee; past member, CPA Vision Project, Peer Review Board, Strategic Planning Committee … Trustee, State Society Network Inc. … Board, Shared Services LLC … Lifetime member and past national president, National Association of Black Accountants; NABA President’s Advisory Council; Finance and Capital Campaign Committees … Trustee and chair of Diversity and Inclusion Subcommittee, Lehigh University; Board of Advisors, College of Business; member, Audit Committee … Member, Accounting Advisory Boards, Ridges University, Seneca Hall University … Member, New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce Cornerstone Group … Chair, Audit Committee, Shiloh Baptist Church.

Education: Lehigh University, 1977, MBA; 1976, BS Business & Economics.

James Turley  
Global chairman and CEO, Ernst & Young  
Having run his Big Four firm both in the U.S. and abroad, Turley is now leading in another way, by demonstrating what a long-term succession plan should look like — he’ll be retiring in 2023, and a successor is already in place.  
Other Affiliations: Co-chair, The Russian Foreign Investment Advisory Council … Steering Committee, International Integrated Reporting Committee … Chair, Catalyst … President’s Export Council … Business Roundtable … Board member, Boy Scouts of America … Trustee, Rice University.  
Education: Rice University, Master’s and BA in Accounting.  

Gordon Viere  
CEO, CliftonLarsonAllen  
After building a reputation as an acquirer of firms, Viere made headlines late last year with LarsonAllen’s major merger with Clifton Gunderson — and set large firms across the country looking for potential partners, even as they watch to see how the new CLA fares.  
Other Affiliations: Council member, AICPA’s, chair, Major Firms Group, Strategic Planning Committee … Minnesota Society of CPAs … Board member, Baker Tilly International Inc.; chair, CEO Group … Young Presidents Organization … World Presidents Organization … Chair and board member, Junior Achievement of the Upper Midwest … Board of Governors and Presidents Club, Bethel College & Seminary Foundation … Board member, Downside Way … Trustee, St. Cloud University … Advisory Board, Salvation Army … United Way.  
Education: St. Cloud State University, 1975.  
Personal: Born 1952, Freeport, Minn. … Married to Diane … Three children.
forward from a practical and technological standpoint, appearing at speaking engagements and leading conferences throughout the year, as well as conducting her own firm/client communication advocacy.

Career Highlights:
- Chief marketing officer, Yopuna Inc., 2012-present
- Co-founder, Conference Committee, Information Professional, 1995-present
- Member, AT Advisory Group
- Creator, The CEO Advantage Program
- Team member, The Advisory Board
- Past committee member and marketing leader, Tech- Conference Committee, AICPA
- Guest lecturer, Kansas State University
- Co-publisher, Performance3
- Board president and campaign chair, United Way of Riley County

Jennifer Wilson
Co-founder and owner, ConvergenceCoaching
Wilson remains receptive to all feedback to her thought-provoking blogs and articles on topics like generational differences and creating a culture of “cool.” She garners an even more engaged response as a speaker at numerous events throughout the year, and recently launched a year-long transformation leadership program.

Career Highlights:
- Co-founder and owner, ConvergenceCoaching LLC, 2000-present
- National director, Financial Solutions Group, BDO Seidman, 1997-1999
- Regional sales manager, Pro Systems Inc., 1995-1996
- Sales tax accountant, Quaker Oats Co., 1989-1996

Diane Yetter
President, Yetter Tax Consulting
Yetter, founder of the Sales Tax Institute and a frequent speaker, is widely respected as the “go-to” authority on state tax issues.

Career Highlights:
- President, Yetter Tax Consulting, 1996-present
- Tax manager, Arthur Andersen, 1989-1996

Joe Woodard
Host, Scaling New Heights
Woodard has made a name for himself in the ProAdvisor community, but has also been very present among accountants looking to technology to help evolve their practices — and the lives of their clients as well.

Career Highlights:
- Conference host and lead instructor, Scaling New Heights, 2008-present
- Owner, president and CEO, Woodard Consulting Group, 2003-present

Of 113 responses

Barry Melancon 57
Mary Schapiro 18
James Doty 15
Tom Hood 12
Douglas Shulman 12
Ronald Baker 9
Leslie Seidman 8
Gary Boomer 7
Handy Hogenkamp 7
Roy Borusch 5

We’ve run out of puns