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JOHN AHERN, CPA
Marcum LLP

John Ahern, CPA is a partner in the Accounting Services Department of Marcum LLP's Long Island office. Throughout his career, Ahern has worked closely with early-stage companies (pre-revenue through exit) across all industries, closely-held businesses, and high-net-worth individuals.

Ahern works hand-in-hand with early-stage founders, owners of closely-held businesses, and high-net-worth individuals providing tax consulting services. He advises his clients on entity formation, general tax planning strategies, and industry specific planning opportunities both from an operational and tax standpoint.

Ahern is involved in the business community, co-chairing the Cooperations with Attorneys Committee of the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants. He is also a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and is involved with local fundraising organizations.

Ahern earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Towson University.

Marcum LLP is a national accounting and advisory services firm dedicated to helping entrepreneurial, middle-market companies and high net worth individuals achieve their goals. Since 1951, clients have chosen Marcum for its expertise and guidance in helping them forge pathways to success, whatever challenges they're facing.

Marcum offers a complete spectrum of tax, assurance and advisory services, as well as an extensive portfolio of industry-focused practices with specialized expertise for both privately held and publicly registered companies, and nonprofit and social sector organizations. Through the Marcum Group, the firm also provides a full complement of technology, wealth management, executive search and staffing, and strategic marketing services.

Headquartered in New York City, Marcum has offices in major business markets across the U.S. and select international locations.



MICHAEL B. CESCHINI, CPA, CCIFP, CM&AA
Ceschini CPAs Tax & Advisory, PLLC

Michael B. Ceschini, CPA, CCIFP, CM&AA is managing member of Ceschini CPAs Tax & Advisory, PLLC, a certified public accounting and profitability consulting firm with offices in Miller Place and New York City.

Ceschini's areas of specialization include accounting, profitability consulting, fiscal management, financial statement preparation and tax as it pertains to business in various industries including construction contractors, real estate, distributors, wholesale, retail and service industries. He also advises clients with respect to strategic business planning, tax minimization strategies, succession planning and merger and acquisitions.

A recognized expert, Ceschini has frequently been called upon as a lecturer and business advisor for companies and industry trade organizations. He has also authored articles and has been sought for expert opinion by various publications including Construction Executive, Newsday, New York Construction magazine, and the New York Real Estate Journal.

Ceschini is a member of various trade organizations where he gains a clear understanding of the

problems and issues facing his clients.

A graduate of New Paltz College, Ceschini earned holds a bachelor's degree in accounting. He has earned the Certified Construction Industry Financial Professional (CCIFP) designation awarded by the Institute of Certified Construction Industry Financial Professionals, Inc. (ICCFIP) and he has earned the Certified Merger & Acquisition Advisor® (CM&AA) designation conferred by the Alliance of Merger & Acquisition Advisors (AM&AA).

Ceschini CPAs Tax & Advisory, PLLC is an entrepreneurial firm of certified public accountants and business advisors serving the construction, real estate, manufacturing, wholesale distribution, insurance, assisted living, professional service providers and a variety of other closely held businesses and industries since 2002.

The firm's professionals have extensive experience and expertise within these business sectors offering assurance, tax, advisory, merger and acquisition and accounting services. The firm employs CCIFPs and CPAs, and continually require its professionals to advance their certifications and stay abreast of the current challenges, needs and trends of its clients.



MARC FOGEL
Citrin Cooperman

An audit partner at Citrin Cooperman in Melville, Marc Fogel has more than 20 years of experience advising closely held businesses across an array of industries and professions including real estate, hospitality, hedge funds and distribution.

A specialist in the real estate industry, Fogel provides tax compliance and tax planning services for both residential and commercial real estate clients including owners, operators and developers, as well as REITs.

His expertise extends to areas that include preparing and reviewing both GAAP and income tax basis financial statements; analyzing the tax and financial impact of sales, purchases, and other transactions and recommending various treatments and techniques to achieve the most effective results; examining operating expenses and real estate tax escalations to isolate any miscalculations, ambiguities, or questionable areas; reviewing the tax implications of various types of like-kind exchanges; and performing due diligence on potential client acquisitions.

Fogel serves on the firm's Real Estate Services Practice Group and speaks before professional associations including the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants. He shares his expertise with young staff members at internal training seminars.

Rapidly changing technology, increased data automation and the adoption of artificial intelligence (AI) have greatly affected the accounting industry, Fogel said.

"Several repetitive accounting functions, such as data-entry, recording journal entries and preparing certain reconciliations have become automated using new technologies," he said. "Leveraging these tools to replace rote tasks gives accountants the time necessary to focus on more value-added areas to maximize efficiencies for their companies and improve service delivery for their clients. The use of cloud-based computing in the accounting field has increased over the past couple of years and has demonstrated staying power, particularly as it provides professionals with increased ability to access their company's real-time financial data safely from a remote setting."

"Citrin Cooperman continually evaluates current and emerging technologies to improve productivity and best serve our clients," Fogel said.

Fogel is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants (Real Estate Committee).

He earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from SUNY Binghamton and received his license as a certified public accountant in New York in 2000.

Citrin Cooperman is one of the nation's largest professional services firms, helping companies and high net worth individuals find smart solutions. Whether its clients' operations and assets are located around the corner or across the globe, Citrin Cooperman provides new perspectives on strategies that will help them achieve their short- and long-term goals.



ROBERTO HINOJOSA
UHY LLP

Roberto Hinojosa is a principal in UHY LLP's Audit and Attestation Group. Hinojosa has a decade of professional experience

providing audit and internal audit services to clients of various sizes and structures spanning a wide range of industries including manufacturing & distribution, technology, financial services and telecommunications. He currently leads internal audit Sarbanes-Oxley engagements for publicly-traded companies.

A Licensed CPA in the state of New York, HinoJosa has worked as the direct client contact on various engagements including Sarbanes-Oxley implementation; Sarbanes-Oxley 404(a) outsourcing; internal audit; and audits of financial statements.

His professional experience also includes performing ICFR risk assessments; performing COSO evaluations; coordinating internal audit walkthroughs and fieldwork; Supervising audit engagements in all stages of audit work, such as planning, fieldwork and financial statement preparation; developing in-house training; development of internal controls framework; and segregation of duties analysis.

Learning how to incorporate Artificial Intelligence (AI) in accounting is key to advising clients, HinoJosa said.

"The ability for accountants to use AI will be a deciding factor in who will be able to compete in an environment where clients are looking for lower fees with an increase in quality of work," HinoJosa said. "While AI may free up an accountant's time, there will be more of an opportunity to advise clients on how to mitigate any effects of AI's shortcomings throughout their business."

"Accountants will particularly be tuned into understanding AI's risks and building controls such as the safeguarding of intellectual property, validating AI output to mitigate AI hallucination, and identifying AI bias," he noted. "The ability to leverage AI is what will put an accountant ahead of the pack."

HinoJosa earned a master's degree in accounting from Baruch College and a bachelor's degree in finance from Saint John's University.

UHY is a top 30 national accounting firm that offers a full suite of accounting and advisory services to middle-market businesses. With more than 1,600 employees across 36 offices nationally, UHY ranks as one of the largest accounting firms in the U.S. Additionally, the firm is a founding member of UHY International, which is among the largest global accountancy networks with 9,400 accounting and consulting professionals spread across nearly 100 countries and more than 340 offices.