

SmartCPAs

SmartCEO READERS PICK THE REGION'S TOP ACCOUNTANTS By Dan Mills

Unsurpassed ethical standards, an eye for detail and an objective voice are the staples of any good CPA's arsenal. Pair that with loyalty and a passion for numbers, and the formula for a CEO's best friend is complete.

The SmartCPA Readers Choice section recognizes Philadelphia's CPA royalty. Not only have these accounting aficionados conquered the climb to CPA stardom, they've also won the affection of the region's top business executives and proven their mettle by helping them run successful companies.

In the pages that follow, SmartCPAs from the Greater Philadelphia region are listed alphabetically by last name and include their firm name and area of expertise. In addition, our readers weighed in on why they feel their CPA is exemplary.

**Note: This list is based on readers' responses and does not reflect the opinions of SmartCEO magazine.*

HANK ABRAMS

Isdamer & Company, LLC

Audit, review engagements, closely held and family-owned businesses

"Over these three decades, we have enjoyed consistent success, and much of the credit for this success can be attributed to Hank's involvement. 'Let's run it by Hank' is often heard when business plans are discussed, as his professional knowledge and plain good sense are valued by all of us." — **BILLIE BRADLEY, controller, National Mail Graphics Corporation**

APRIL AMBROZY

Ambrozy Accounting & Taxes

Accounting, tax, consulting

"April's knowledge goes well beyond tax filing. Every time my wife and I visit her, we leave with valuable information that you would expect from a veteran financial planner or wealth advisor. I trust her implicitly and would recommend her to anyone."
— **OWEN MURPHY, VP, sales and marketing, Total Access Medical**

FRANK ANGELERI

KPMG LLP

Federal tax

"Frank has been responsible for providing thorough and reliable tax planning advice to my employers for over 20 years. Whatever the scope of work and regardless of deadlines, the work products provided by Frank and his colleagues are consistent and exceptional by way of quality." — **ALBERT THORP, CFO, Globus Medical**

M. MICHAEL AQUINO

CBIZ MHM, LLC

Financial institutions

"Mike's extensive financial services and due diligence experience has greatly helped our bank complete various types of transactions with the comfort that these were done by a very experienced and knowledgeable team. I would definitely use Mike and his team for any type of transaction." — **ANTHONY BROWN, director, asset backed finance, Nord/LB, New York**

JOSEPH BATTAGLINI

Battaglini and Company

Wealth management

"Joseph Battaglini is an exceptional accountant who brings initiative and creativity to his profession." — **JIM PATERNO, founder, Stockton Advisors**

BARRY M. BERKOWITZ

CBIZ MHM, LLC

Commercial real estate

"Rarely can you say you have an external advisor that you consider an integral member of your team. Barry's practical approach to solving issues and analyzing opportunities has allowed Keystone Property Group to focus on what we do best: creating value in real estate for our investors." — **PATRICK J. BRALA, CPA, SVP and CFO, Keystone Property Group**

MARK T. BERRY

A & M Berk Tax Services

Tax

"Mark Berry has been amazing for my corporate clients of all sizes, and I highly recommend him and any of his associates." — **ANGELA D. GIAMPOLO, principal, Giampolo Law Group**

BILL BRIGGS

Citrin Cooperman

Tax planning, compliance services

"Bill goes the extra mile to make sure clients not only get the best tax counsel available but that they actually understand the details in their tax returns so that the clients can be more proactive in their financial and tax planning." — **GINA F. RUBEL, ESQ., president and CEO, Furia Rubel Communications, Inc.**

TOM BUNTING

BBD, LLP

Accounting, auditing, tax, financial planning and business advisory services to public and privately held middle-market commercial businesses and their stockholders

"I have been working with BBD, LLP, for several years and have been extremely impressed with Tom Bunting." — **MARTY TUZMAN, CEO, Jenkintown Building Services**

DOMINIC A. CAGLIOTI

ParenteBeard LLC

Tax, financial, estate and business planning, contract negotiations, litigation support

"Dom is quite a leader for ParenteBeard, bringing great growth to the organization." — **DENNIS D. D'ANDREA, president, 3D Financial Group**

STEPHEN J. CARR

Asher & Company, Ltd.

High-net-worth individuals, closely held businesses

"Steve is tireless, knows the law like anyone, offers practical and sound advice that gets real results and is an all-around pleasure to work with. He's one of the best in the region without a doubt." — **ANDY STUTZMAN, partner and chair, Mortgage and Lending Litigation Practice Group, Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP**

MARK S. CARROW

Citrin Cooperman

Tax services, business consulting

"Mark is one of the most passionate accountants I have ever met. From entrepreneurs to established multi-billion dollar businesses, Mark gives every client his undivided attention to help them reach their financial goals." — **GINA F. RUBEL, Esq., president and CEO, Furia Rubel Communications, Inc.**

TIMOTHY L. CLEMENS

Baum, Smith & Clemens, LLP

Estate planning, tax planning, management advisory services

"Tim Clemens and Baum, Smith & Clemens, LLP, is the most respectable and personable team I know." — **ANTHONY CIRONE, CEO, Macron Dynamics**

ALLAN COHEN

Isdaner & Company, LLC

Medical and professional practices, closely held businesses

"Allan is a solid and valued advisor. He is competent, he is accessible and he makes sure I do the right thing." — **BOB ELFANT, president, Elfant Wissahickon Realtors**

ALAN COHEN

WeiserMazars LLP

Auditing, accounting, tax, consulting services

"Alan Cohen is not your typical CPA. His phone is always on, his door is always open and he is never too busy to help me grow my business. Whether it's the smallest question or the biggest problem, I can count on Alan to provide an unparalleled level of expertise and care." — **ALEXANDER EBRAHIMZADEH, president, Fried Brothers, Inc.**

MURRAY N. GREENBERG

Robin Kramer & Green, LLP

*Business technology, audits, business and nonprofit financial statements and valuations***"I have worked with Murray for 27 years. He is the best!" – BRUER KERSHNER, principal, Kershner Office Furniture****LINDA G. GUENDELSBERGER**

WeiserMazars LLP

*Personal and business tax planning, estate planning***"Linda takes great pride in proactive planning and exemplary client service. I have known Linda for many years professionally, and in addition to her excellent skills as a CPA and tax consultant, Linda has been a generous donor of her time to nonprofit organizations." – SHARON PINKENSON, executive director, Greater Philadelphia Film Office****JAMES R. HAEFELE**

Haeefe, Flanagan & Co., P.C.

*Business valuation, forensic analysis***"Jim has helped my attorney with business evaluations for his clientele in disputes and break-ups, as well as assisted nonprofit clients with strategies to maximize their accounting practices. Jim is one of the premier accountants in the area and is well deserving of recognition of his services." – DREW POLIN, president, OpDecision****JIM HAMLET**

Isdamer & Company, LLC

*Accounting, auditing, business consulting***"Jim is the 'go to' guy' for many of arts and culture institutions in Philadelphia. Anyone who knows Jim knows about his ethics and professionalism." – SEAN M. REILLY, Esq., president and CEO, Roscommon International, Inc.****JIM HANNA**

Hanna, McGlone & Co., P.C.

*Accounting, tax, financial, technological and management needs***"Jim has the ability to advise his clients on not only the best corporate and personal advice but how the two interact. We feel that he delivers true value to the partners in many different ways." – SID SMITH, co-founder and managing partner, Newmark Knight Frank Smith Mack****IVAN HANTMAN**

Isdamer & Company, LLC

*Accounting, auditing***"Ivan educated us on the best way to audit our building as a co-op. He reconfigured everything and did everything right. We benefited from his experience financially. Ivan is always available to answer questions and is very receptive to all of our ideas." – COLLEEN DANKS, general manager, William Penn House****BRIAN J. ("BJ") HOFFMAN**

Citrin Cooperman

*Audit, tax, litigation support services***"BJ Hoffman is an excellent auditor, fraud/forensic investigator and general business advisor." – CURTIS L. GOLKOW, founder, Golkow Business Law LLC****JON HOFFMAN**

Isdamer & Company, LLC

*Fiduciary accounting, taxation***"Jon's professional yet friendly manner and his ability to communicate effectively are great strengths. Jon is proactive and becomes involved from the early planning stages, offering recommendations that help us to make better decisions for the success of our company." – CAROL FRITCHMAN, controller, Somerset Group, LLC**

PETER C. HOLSTON

Joseph P. Melvin Co., P.C.
Corporate and personal accounting

"I have worked with Pete through three businesses over 25 years. Pete's knowledge and advice have been important during good times but critical to our survival during difficult times. I trust completely with my livelihood." — **BILL DILLON, president, eLeadCorp, LLC**

MICHAEL G. HORSEY

Mitchell & Titus
Audit, taxation, financial analysis

"Michael is an expert, leader, mentor, innovator, achiever and relationship-builder and deserves to be recognized for his significant contribution to the profession and the community." — **CASSANDRA W. JONES, Ed.D, CEO, Next Step Associates, LLC**

PHILIP HUGHES

LarsonAllen LLP
Federal and state taxation

"Phil is a consummate professional. As both a CPA and lawyer, he is an expert in the area of federal and state taxation." — **WILLIAM R. SAUTTER, CPA, president and CEO, Elliott-Lewis Corp.**

SCOTT ISDANER

Isdamer & Company, LLC
Tax, individual, partnership, trust, nonprofits, S- and C-corporations issues

"In my opinion, Scott is an exceptional financial advisor. He provides our company intelligent solutions with a commonsense perspective. Most importantly he is an honest, humble man, and it is a pleasure to work with him." — **LARRY KORFF, VP, JM Resources, Inc.**

CHARLES M. JACOBSON

Pine Hill Group, LLC
Finance, accounting department operations, audits, IPOs, SEC financial reporting, post-acquisition integration

"Chuck can be counted on for practical, Big 4 technical accounting expertise and senior operating know-how within private industry. He goes beyond simply providing 'the right answer.' He helps them improve their efficiency of their entire operation." — **GARY BAGIN, CMO, Stradley Ronon Stevens & Young, LLP.**

MICHAEL KAUFFMAN

EisnerAmper
Corporate taxes

"I have worked with Mike for about 10 years now and have been consistently impressed by the breadth of services he and his firm provide. When we opened a new office in Washington, DC, last year, his advice was indispensable." — **JIRI STEJSKAL, president and CEO, CETRA, Inc.**

LISA KEANE

EisnerAmper
Real state, construction management

"I have known Lisa for six years in a professional capacity and we also serve on the board of Commercial Real Estate Women. She regularly donates her time preparing tax returns for nonprofits." — **JANET GRACE, construction/project management, Athenian Properties**

MICHAEL J. KLINE

Citrin Cooperman
Tax services

"Michael is a tax guru. He is not only knowledgeable, but he gives excellent practical advice." — **CURTIS L. GOLKOW, founder, Golkow Business Law LLC**

MORRIS KURTZMAN

Chernow Kurtzman & Company, P.C.
Accounting services for small businesses

"Morris has represented our firm for two decades and provides many small businesses with safe, sensible accounting advice. I consider him an essential element of our management team and have recommended his firm to dozens of our law firm's clients over the years." — **BERNARD MAX RESNICK, Esq., owner, Bernard M. Resnick, Esq., P. C.**

ROBERT LONGO

Muller Longo & Associates
Corporate

"Robert is knowledgeable in South Asian GAAP accounting practices that helped us monetize our intellectual property in Singapore and India." — **JATIN S. BAINS, president, Channel Logistics LLC**

RICK MORGANSTERN

Morganstern & Associates
Tax, business advisory, business valuation

"Our firm practices entertainment law, so it is indeed helpful that they speak our language (and the language of our clients). Entertainers' salaries and financial needs are quite different from the average highly compensated individual; therefore, they need the expertise that accountants like Rick can provide." — **BERNARD MAX RESNICK, Esq., owner, Bernard M. Resnick, Esq., P. C.**

CHARLES MURACCO

Muracco & Liuzzi, PC
Closely held businesses

"Charles and his team are different because they care about you as an individual. They're concerned with helping you grow personally, professionally and financially." — **BRIAN LIPSTEIN, AICI FLC, president, Henry A. Davidsen, Master Tailors & Image Consultants**

FRANK E. O'BRIEN

Gable Peritz Mishkin, LLP
Accounting and tax services for real estate developers, construction companies and professional services firms

"Frank demonstrated a keen insight not only into our software, but he had also shown an exceptional ability in understanding the real business issues underlying the software and worked exceedingly well with me and our people." — **ELLIOT M. LEVIN, VP, Pathfinder, LLC**

CURTIS PARCHMENT

Milligan & Company, LLC
Pension and compliance audits

"As an engagement manager, Curtis performed a high level of all audit work and was responsible for ensuring timely delivery of their opinion on our financial statements as well as the day-day relationship with the pension fund." — **RONALD B. BARBER, fund administrator, Board of Education Employees' Pension Fund of Essex County**

ELIZABETH PILACIK

Asher & Company, Ltd.
Nonprofit, tax-exempt services

"Under Elizabeth's leadership, the audit has been completed accurately, on a timely basis and costs have been kept within budget. I have called on her for advice in dealing with the changing regulatory and business environment." — **JIM KENNEDY, CFO, CATCH Inc.**

MATTHEW PRIBILA

Withum Smith & Brown
Accounting, auditing, closely held companies

"Matt's professionalism is only surpassed by his knowledge of accounting, finance and investment principles. There is little that Matt cannot address directly, but when there is, he has limitless resources to get you the right answer to any accounting, finance or investment issue or question." — **WILLIAM BUMBERNICK, chairman, Alteva**

BRIAN PUGLIESE

Gallagher, McDevitt, Schalleur & Surgent, LLC (GMS Surgent)

Tax

"Brian knows both small business and large corporations extremely well. He is incredibly humble, talented and thoughtful, and he works aggressively for his clients year round – not just during tax season." – **ANTHONY GOLD, CEO, Healthy Humans**

SCOTT RAKOWSKI

Rakowski & Company

Accounting, bookkeeping

"As Tridon Industries was growing, we made the decision to look for an accountant that would be able to not only handle our company in the smaller stage but also one that had the vision of growth. Scott tries extremely hard to keep us out of trouble even though there are so many potholes in the construction industry. He has done a superior job." – **MARY BETH YANNESSA, president, Tridon Industries, Inc.**

LORI F. REINER

EisnerAmper

Life sciences, technology, professional service companies, audit, real estate

"Lori has been the accountant for my firm for 10 years and my personal accountant, as well. She is incredibly bright, responsive, intuitive about our business needs and amazingly strategic and thoughtful about recommending to us best practices that will enhance, grow and protect our business." – **MOLLY D. SHEPARD, MS, MSM, president and CEO, The Leader's Edge**

JAMES A. REVELS

Citrin Cooperman

Planning, administration, income tax services

"I worked closely with Jim on a nonprofit committee and found him to be passionate, innovative and energetic. Jim understands that giving back to the community is just as important as doing great work for his firm's clients." – **GINA F. RUBEL, Esq., president and CEO, Furia Rubel Communications, Inc.**

GENE BROWN

Lenard & Company, Inc.

Accounting

"Gene possesses our complete confidence and trust in these tumultuous and uncertain times, and I have come to value him both for his professional expertise and as a friend." – **LENARD BROWN, CFO, Seniors Management North, Inc.**

LEENA RITCHIE

Leena Ritchie & Company, Inc.

Tax, partnerships, S- and C-corporation issues, nonprofit and foundation consulting

"Leena is a rare professional – she is a delight to work with, authoritative and very responsive. We depend on Leena for accounting, tax and strategic advice and have never been disappointed." – **FRANK BERARDINO, president, GRA, Inc.**

MARGARET (PEGGY) ROBUS

Asher & Company, Ltd.

Taxation

"Peggy has over 25 years of experience in the field of taxation, including implementing tax saving strategies for clients. She is very well spoken, poised and instills confidence in those working with her." – **FRANCINE FRIEDMAN GRIESING, Esq., CEO, Griesing Law LLC**

JOSEPH SASSA

ParenteBeard LLC

Audit, accounting

"Joe Sassa has a client-centered focus which has brought our audit to a new level. He goes beyond financial statement review to provide recommendations and suggestions aimed at keeping us competitive and efficient." – **ANNE REID, treasurer, Moravian College**

FREDERICK SCENNA

Souder Scenna and Associates, LLC

Outsourced financial manager

"Fred deals with small entrepreneurial businesses as their CFO or controller."

— DENNIS D. D'ANDREA, president, 3D Financial Group

ROBERT B. SIMPSON

Brinker, Simpson & Company, LLC

Attest, consulting, tax series engagements

"What I feel is special about Bob is that he is always available for meetings or calls on other financial issues, be it working on our banking relationships, preparing documents for our operating lines of credit, partner issues, tax questions, financial planning questions and more." — PAUL BERMAN, president, Delaware Valley Valpak, Inc.

JAMES J. SMART

Nihill & Riedley, P.C.

Accounting, assurance, tax, business, technology, financial advisory

"Jim has been called a visionary, which he is, but he is also well-grounded, particularly in his specialty, fraud and forensic accounting investigations. As an alumnus and member of La Salle's Board of Trustees, Jim has shared his expertise and experience for the benefit of the university." — MATTHEW S. MCMANNESS, VP, finance and administration, La Salle University

DAVID P. SMELTZER

Aqua America, Inc.

Finance, M&A

"David's career path is a model for accounting students to follow. Not only has he been recognized for his professional achievements, he is deeply involved with and has been acknowledged for his contributions to the community, a value that we work to instill in our students." — MARY JEANNE WELSH, Ph.D., professor and chair, accounting department, La Salle University

MICHAEL SOLOMON

Rudney Solomon Cohen & Felzer PC

Accounting, financial services

"Mike is always available at anytime of the day or weekend to answer any questions or respond to any thoughts that I might have (and I have many). Being a four-time recipient of the Inc. 500 and Inc. 5000 award, I would be remiss not to share the credit for the success of my business with Mike and his team." — LARRY BERK, CEO, Berk Wiper Converting & Packaging, LLC

MATTHEW SUCKLE

Citrin Cooperman

Individual and corporate tax, audit, consulting

"Matthew is a very well-rounded accountant with an astute business mind. I think Matt is the kind of guy everyone should be keeping their eye on when it comes to growth in Philadelphia's accounting community." — ANTHONY SEMBELLO, partner, Pintzuk Brown Realty Group

MIKE TROPED

Isdamer & Company, LLC

Accounting, auditing

"Mike has a high degree of professionalism, is very responsive to my needs and gives clear explanations of accounting issues in layman's terms." — SUSAN NAFTULIN, president and COO, Rehab Financial Group, LP

COLLEEN VALLEN

ParenteBeard LLC

Forensic, litigation, valuation

"The service Colleen provides to us is very time-sensitive, complicated and detail-oriented. Colleen is very good at meeting our deadlines and providing a comprehensive product. Also, Colleen is a top technical professional and does a great job of taking complicated issues and explaining them in layman's terms." — TERRENCE J. TRACY, CPA, managing director/EVP, Conner Strong & Buckelew