

UCA Accounting CPE • Speaker Bios
December 6, 2024

Session 1: Tax Update

Mallory Taylor

Mallory Taylor is a Tax Partner with HoganTaylor. Mallory joined HoganTaylor as a partner in 2018 following the merger with JPMS Cox. He spent 13 years with JPMS Cox helping to build the firm into one of the largest tax practices in Arkansas. Prior to that, he worked in Deloitte's Little Rock office for 12 years. Mallory is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Hendrix College.

Gregory Justice

Gregory Justus is a Tax Manager with HoganTaylor. He has been with the firm for over 6 years and has been in public accounting for 9 years. He is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and holds both a bachelor's and a master's degree in accounting from Louisiana Tech University.

Session 2: FASB Update

Randy Milligan

Randy Milligan is a managing partner for Landmark PLC. Randy has over 35 years of experience providing tax, audit, and business consulting services to for profit, nonprofit, and governmental entities and conducts peer reviews. He has served on the board of the Arkansas State Society of Certified Public Accountants, AICPA's Peer Review Board, and Partners in Peer Review with Alabama. Randy currently serves on the AICPA's Professional Ethics Executive Committee.

Sherry Chesser

Sherry Chesser is a member of Landmark PLC and serves on the management team. Sherry has over 30 years of experience in public accounting providing tax and audit services to a broad base of clients and conducting peer reviews. She has served on the Arkansas State Board of Public Accountancy and the AICPA's Auditing Standards Board. She currently serves as a member of NASBA's Peer Review Compliance Committee, Partners in Peer Review with Alabama, and the AICPA's Peer Review Board.

Session 3: Overview of Financial Statements

Gina Moran

Gina Moran is a CPA and Partner at HCJ CPAs & Advisory PLLC, where her areas of service are Financial Institutions and Credit Unions; Manufacturing; Construction; Transportation; Agriculture; Not-for-Profit; Mergers and Acquisitions. Gina is a graduate of the University of Central Arkansas and serves as a Wish Granter & Regional Board Member for Make a Wish Foundation Mid-South.

Sarah Gentry

Sarah Gentry is a CPA and a Principal at HCJ CPAs & Advisory PLLC, where her areas of service are Non-Profit/Government, including Yellowbook and Single Audits; Employee Benefit Plans; Healthcare; Construction; Wholesale; Banking. She is a graduate of Henderson State University. Outside of the office, Sarah can often be found hiking, camping, and gardening or doing her own auto maintenance and repairs.

Session 4: Ethics

Tim Montgomery

Tim joined the Arkansas State Board of Public Accountancy as an investigator in 2013. He became Executive Director in May 2023. Tim graduated from the University of Houston – Downtown with a BBA in Accounting in 1992 and passed the CPA exam in 1993. Before joining the State Board, Tim spent most of his career in internal auditing, including Internal Audit Director for US Able Life and Dyersburg State Community College. He lives in Jacksonville, AR with his wife Charlotte. They have four children (ages 30, 29, 24, and 15), three daughters-in-law, and two perfect grandsons.

Session 5: Cybersecurity

Joe Thomas

Dr. Joe Thomas is an Associate Professor in the Computer Information Systems & Analytics Department at UCA. Dr. Thomas is an accomplished academic and military professional with over thirty years of experience in information systems, analytics, data visualization, cybersecurity governance, and leadership development. In addition to his teaching and research at UCA, Dr. Thomas has consulted with several businesses including Centennial Bank, Conway AR and ProPep Surgical, Austin TX. Before transitioning to academia, Dr. Thomas served 23 years in the United States Air Force, where he held several leadership roles including Dean of the Squadron Officer College, Air University, AL; Assistant Professor & Director of IT Research, US Air Force Academy, CO; and as Director of Operations, AF Network Ops Security Center, Gunter AFB, AL. His combined experience in military operations and academic research informs his teaching and ongoing contributions to information systems and analytics.

Session 6: Protecting Your License

Drake Mann

Mr. Mann is a shareholder and director of Gill Ragon Owen, P.A. He is a director of the firm's Data Security and Privacy Protection group. The International Association of Privacy Professionals has certified Mr. Mann as a Privacy Law Specialist and designated him a Fellow of Information Privacy. Mr. Mann has served as a law clerk to Associate Justice M. Steele Hays of the Supreme Court of Arkansas and a staff attorney for the Arkansas Securities Department. He is Chairman of the Administrative Law Section of the Arkansas Bar Association, a former Chairman of the Securities Law Section and a Fellow of the Arkansas Bar Foundation, and a member of the Editorial Advisory Boards of the Arkansas Lawyer magazine and the ATLA Docket magazine. Mr. Mann is a member of The Sedona Conference® Working Group on Data Security and Privacy Liability (WG11). He served as a director of Priority Bank from 1998-2021. Mr. Mann included in Best Lawyers® in America in Administrative and Regulatory Law and Appellate Practice. Mr. Mann received his B.A. from East Carolina University and his J.D. from the University of Arkansas.

Session 7: Using Artificial Intelligence in Auditing

Ryan Cating

Dr. Ryan Cating, Ph.D., CPA is an Assistant Professor of Accounting at the University of Central Arkansas. Prior to academia he worked as a senior audit associate in the Dallas office of KPMG primarily serving financial services clients, including a Fortune 500 property and casualty insurance client. His teaching responsibilities include Principles of Managerial Accounting and undergraduate Auditing. His research interests include: 1) how regulators affect audit and financial accounting outcomes, 2) how information dissemination affects capital market participants, and 3) how auditors develop their competencies. In his spare time, he enjoys traveling across the country playing pickleball, training and hunting upland birds with his vizsla (Andouille), consuming homemade ICEEs, and snow skiing with his wife Rachel.

Session 8: Accounting and Investments

Jing (Bob) Fang

Jing (Bob) Fang is an accounting assistant professor at the University of Central Arkansas. He earned his PhD in accounting from Louisiana State University. He conducts research in three broad areas: the effects of capital market (in)efficiency and factors affecting it, corporate governance, and valuation and fundamental analysis including empirical asset pricing. His research work has been published in The Accounting Review, Journal of Corporate Finance, British Accounting Review, and other quality academic journals.