

Speaker Bios
University of Central Arkansas • Accounting CPE • December 5, 2025

Session 1

Karen Oxner is an Associate Professor of Accounting at UCA, teaching financial accounting after a short career in public and private accounting. She is a CPA and earned her doctorate at Southern Illinois University.

JT Schrock joined NativState late in 2022 as the Controller. J.T. has extensive experience as a financial analyst and professor of Accounting at the University of Central Arkansas. J.T. brings significant analytical and office governance roles to NativState and will be integral in maintaining integrity within our organization. J.T. was born in Russellville and has lived in Arkansas his entire life. Opting to stay close to home, J.T. completed his B.S. in Accounting at Arkansas Tech University and received a Master of Accountancy degree from the University of Central Arkansas. J.T. became a Certified Public Accountant in 2011. J.T. and his wife, Ashton, have three children and a close family that enjoys big family vacations anywhere from the beach in North Carolina to local lakes in Arkansas.

Session 2

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.

Session 3

Ross Townsend, CPA, is a Manger at Landmark CPAs in Little Rock, AR. He joined the Landmark team in 2021 after graduating from college. He primarily provides audit and assurance services in the for-profit, nonprofit, HUD, and other commercial sectors. He plays an active role in internal training and development at Landmark CPAs. He leads initiatives focused on training staff in new auditing software and tools, helping ensure the firm remains at the forefront of technological advancement in the profession. He received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, Accounting from Arkansas Tech University. His a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Arkansas Society of Certified Public Accountants, where he is on the Emerging CPAs Committee. The ARCPA has awarded Ross the 2023 ARCPA Leadership Academy and the 2023 ARPCA Outstanding Emerging CPA Award Recipient. Ross is also on the Board of Directors of Home for Healing.

Rudy Lockhart is a Staff Accountant at Landmark CPAs in Little Rock, AR. He provides experience auditing clients in agriculture, nonprofit, and governmental sectors. He has hands-on experience with tools such as Datasnipper, Validis, and Teammate Analytics, and actively explores the integration of emerging technology to enhance workflows. He received his Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. He is a member of the Arkansas Society of Certified Public Accountants (ARCPA) and is on the Board of Directors for Keep Little Rock Beautiful.

Session 4

Richard Bell, CPA, JD, is the Founder, President, and CEO of Bell & Company, P.A., a regional accounting and advisory firm headquartered in North Little Rock with offices in Conway and Harrison. Since founding the firm with his wife, Lee, in 1981, Richard has built Bell & Company into a trusted team of more than 50 professionals known for personalized, high-quality service. Richard's expertise spans tax, business, and estate consulting, with a niche focus in the transportation industry — representing more than sixty private carriers nationwide. Known as a “work-out CPA,” he specializes in helping financially distressed companies regain profitability and long-term stability. He is serving his second term on the Arkansas State Board of Public Accountancy and is a member of the Legislative Support Committee for the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA). Richard has been honored as an Arkansas Business 2020 Lifetime Achievement Award recipient, a 2025 Forbes Best-in-State Top CPA, Business Information Professional of the Year, and Beta Alpha Psi inductee. Under his leadership, Bell & Company has been recognized as an INSIDE Public Accounting Top 500 Firm and a 2024 & 2025 AY's Best Accounting Firm Award winner.

Session 5

Stephanie F. Watson, Ph.D., CPA, has been on the faculty of the University of Central Arkansas Accounting Department since 2003. She currently serves as the department's chairperson. Stephanie has taught Accounting Information Systems, Cost Accounting, Principles of Accounting, and Accounting Case Studies. Stephanie is also involved in Curriculum and Assessment, has co-authored a textbook, and has been published in the Journal of Accounting Education, The CPA Journal, and Oil, Gas, and Energy Quarterly, among others. Stephanie has been honored with the ASCPA Distinguished Achievement in Accounting Education, Outstanding Beta Alpha Psi Advisor, and service and teaching awards from UCA's College of Business. She received a B.S., M.S., and Ph.D., all in accounting from Louisiana State University. Prior to graduate school, Stephanie worked in corporate accounting for seven years.

Session 6

Paul F. Montrose is the VP Security Engineering & Architecture of Interpublic Group and VP Cybersecurity, Risk, & Compliance for Axiom. As the leader of the Cybersecurity and Compliance teams, Paul is accountable for the security strategy, and assuring its alignment with the business goals, contemporary architectures, emerging threats, and industry/regulatory requirements. He collaborates with leaders, engineering teams, and key areas of the company to advance the security, risk, and compliance programs with seamless integration into the business. He guides teams to utilize current/nextgen methodologies and techniques to reduce risk, increase resiliency, and efficiencies. His security background spans over 20 years as a security leader, engineer/architect, and assessor with a technical background that spans over 29 years as a solutions architect and Oracle systems DBA. Additionally Paul serves on two Boards (Arkansas Tech University, Computer Science Industry Advisory Board and Forge Institute Advisory Board) and is an adjunct faculty at University of Central Arkansas teaching ungraduated and graduate level Principles of IT Security for over 9 years. His certifications include: Certified Information Systems Security Professional (CISSP), ISC2; Certified Information Security Manager, (CISM), ISACA; Certified Information Systems Auditor, (CISA), ISACA; Certified in the Governance of Enterprise Information Technology, (CGEIT), ISACA; Certified in Risk and Information Systems Control (CRISC), ISACA; and Certified ITIL Foundation in IT Service Management. Paul has an undergraduate degree from Nova Southeastern University in Professional Management with post graduation studies in Productivity Through Quality from the University of Tennessee. He is a Commercial Pilot and lives on an airport.

Session 7

Matthew C. Boch is a tax, business, and regulatory attorney with a particular focus on state and local taxes and economic development incentives. Matt advises taxpayers across the country and represents taxpayers in audits and appeals. He helps businesses negotiate, implement, and monetize state and local credits and incentives, facilitating thousands of jobs and more than a billion dollars in capital investment. Policy work has been a particular focus for Matt, and he has been associated with several Arkansas tax cuts and reforms.

Matt recently returned to private practice after serving as the Chief Commissioner of the Arkansas Tax Appeals Commission. Before his service, Matt was a partner in two Arkansas firms and in the Chicago office of a global law firm. Matt is a fellow of the American College of Tax Counsel and an honorary member of the Arkansas Society of CPAs.