

# **Activity Review**

North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners

1101 Oberlin Rd., Ste. 104 • PO Box 12827 • Raleigh, NC 27605 • 919-733-4222 • nccpaboard.gov • No. 5-2020

# Uniform CPA Exam Applicants and CPA Licensure Applicants Subject to Background Checks

In 2018, the Board amended 21 NCAC 08F .0103(f) and .0502(b) to allow the Board to conduct a background check, including criminal records, on all initial applicants for the Uniform CPA Exam and all applicants for NC CPA licensure.

Have you ever been charged, arrested, convicted, found guilty of, received a prayer for judgment continued, or pleaded nolo contendere to any offense, inclusive of traffic infractions? If yes, please attach a copy of the relevant records. You are not required to disclose any arrest, charge, or conviction that has been expunged by the court.

The background check is in keeping with NCGS §93-2 and §93-12(5), which require that for an individual to be eligible to take the Exam or be certified as a CPA in North Carolina, that individual must be of good moral character.

Many of the Board's Exam and licensure

applications include a question about an applicant's moral character.

In general, "of good moral character" means the person possesses the personal traits of honesty, integrity, forthrightness, trustworthiness, and self-restraint to be a CPA.

By signing the Exam or licensure application, applicants are authorizing the Board to verify any of the information entered on the application, including a background check.

Applicants must report all offenses, even seemingly minor incidents such as speeding tickets, and provide relevant documents or court records for each violation.

In North Carolina, a traffic law violation is a criminal offense, and the Board's background check software often shows a criminal offense without identifying it as a traffic law violation.

Therefore, the Board routinely asks applicants for further clarification of the matter.

It is not necessary to report offenses that have been removed from an applicant's record or sealed by a court. However, it is the applicant's responsibility to make sure those offenses do not show up on a background check.

Applicants need to know that the Board doesn't deny an application automatically based on an incident in the applicant's past; an offense rarely keeps an applicant from pursuing a career as a CPA.

The Board does consider criminal convictions when approving an Exam or licensure application.

When considering criminal convictions, the Board must consider all the factors listed in NCGS §93B-8.1(b1).

# Common Offenses Reported on Background Checks

Speeding tickets

Vehicle registration (expired tags, etc.)



Traffic charge related to an accident

Alcohol-related charges (underage drinking, public intoxication, etc.)

Violation of a local ordinance, usually related to another charge

If the Board denies an application because of a criminal conviction, the applicant can appeal the decision through NCGS §90-14.1.

Background Check continued on page 6

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## **Disciplinary Actions**

Pursuant to NCGS 93-12(9), civil penalties are remitted to the North Carolina Civil Penalty and Forfeiture Fund ("Fund") in accordance with NCGS 115C-457.2. NCGS 115C-457.1(b) states, "The Fund shall be administered by the Office of State Budget and Management. The Fund and all interest accruing to the Fund shall be faithfully used exclusively for maintaining free public schools."

#### CHALICE MARIE GOLDEN, #39218 | MATTHEWS, NC

THIS CAUSE coming before the North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners (the "Board") at its offices at 1101 Oberlin Road, Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina, at public hearing ("Hearing"), with a quorum present, the Board finds, based on the evidence presented at the Hearing on January 28, 2020, that:

#### FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Respondent was the holder of a certificate as a Certified Public Accountant in North Carolina.
- 2. The Board has jurisdiction over Respondent and the subject matter of this action.
- Respondent received at least fifteen (15) days written notice of the Hearing. The notice was achieved by serving a Notice of Hearing by personal service, certified mail, or other method of delivery authorized by NC Gen. Stat. §150B-38(c).
- 4. Venue is proper and the Hearing was properly held at 1101 Oberlin Road, Raleigh, North Carolina.
- 5. Respondent did not object to any Board Member's participation in the Hearing of this matter.
- 6. Respondent was not present at the Hearing and was not represented by counsel.
- In 2017 and 2018, on her annual CPA certificate renewals, the Respondent informed the Board that she had obtained the requisite forty (40) hours of continuing professional education ("CPE") to meet her annual requirements.
- 8. Based on the Respondent's representations, the Board accepted the Respondent's renewals.
- The Respondent was subject to an audit of her CPE for 2017 and 2018, and the Board staff requested that the Respondent provide certificates of completion for the CPE reported to meet her CPE requirements in those years.
- The Respondent replied that she could not substantiate the completion of any of the forty (40) hour annual CPE requirements for either year.
- 11. On May 29, 2019, the Board's Professional Standards staff sent correspondence to the Respondent informing her that an enforcement file had been opened and requested a response from her. The

Respondent was not initially responsive, and when she did finally correspond, that response was incomplete.

- 12. On July 23, 2019, the Board staff sent correspondence to the Respondent in an attempt to resolve the matter informally. That correspondence was sent via regular mail. The Respondent did not provide a response.
- 13. Board staff sent an email to the Respondent on August 14, 2019, requesting her response. The Respondent did not provide a response.
- 14. Board staff mailed the Respondent a copy of the July 23, 2019, correspondence by certified mail on August 20, 2019. The Respondent did not provide a response.

#### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

- 1. Per NC Gen. Stat. §150B-42, this Board Order constitutes a Final Agency Decision of the Board.
- Respondent is subject to the provisions of Chapter 93 of the North Carolina General Statutes and Title 21, Chapter 8 of the North Carolina Administrative Code. Pursuant to NC Gen. Stat.§93-12(9) the Board has the authority to impose discipline upon the Respondent and Respondent's certificate and to impose civil monetary penalties.
- 3. Respondent Golden's actions as set out above constitute violations of 21 NCAC 08N .0202(b)(4), .0203(b)(5), and .0206.

**BASED ON THE FOREGOING**, the Board orders in a vote of six (6) to zero (0) that:

- The Certified Public Accountant certificate issued to Respondent, Chalice Marie Golden, is hereby permanently revoked.
- 2. Respondent Chalice Marie Golden shall not offer or render services as a CPA or otherwise trade upon or use the CPA title in this state either through CPA mobility provisions or substantial equivalency practice privileges or in any other manner, nor shall Respondent claim or attempt to use any practice privileges in any other state based upon her permanently revoked North Carolina certificate.

Approved by the Board January 28, 2020.

#### MARK T. HAWKINS, #22175 | HAWKINS & HAWKINS, PC | UNION GROVE, NC

**THIS CAUSE**, coming before the North Carolina State Board of CPA Examiners ("Board") at its offices at 1101 Oberlin Road, Raleigh, Wake County, North Carolina, with a quorum present. Pursuant to NC Gen. Stat. §150B-41, the Board, the Respondent, and the Respondent Firm stipulate to the following:

- Mark T. Hawkins, CPA (hereinafter "Respondent"), is the holder of North Carolina certificate number 22175 as a Certified Public Accountant.
- 2. Hawkins & Hawkins, PC (hereinafter "Respondent Firm"), is a registered certified public accounting firm in North Carolina. Hereinafter, the Respondent and the Respondent Firm shall collectively be referred to as the "Respondents."
- The Respondents issued multiple reviews over the past five (5) years. The Respondents are enrolled in the peer review program; however, the Respondent Firm has not provided any information that a peer review has been scheduled.
- 4. The Respondents failed to furnish to the peer review program selected financial statements, corresponding work papers, and any additional information or documentation required for the peer review program within eighteen (18) months of the issuance of the first report provided to a client.
- 5. The Respondents wish to resolve this matter by consent and agree that the Board staff and counsel may discuss this Consent Order with the Board ex parte, whether or not the Board accepts this Consent Order as written. The Respondents understand and agree that this Consent Order is subject to review and approval by the Board and is not effective until approved by the Board at a duly constituted Board Meeting.

**BASED UPON THE FOREGOING**, the Board makes the following Conclusions of Law:

- The Respondents are subject to the provisions of Chapter 93 of the North Carolina General Statutes and Title 21, Chapter 08 of the North Carolina Administrative Code, including the Rules of Professional Ethics and Conduct promulgated and adopted therein by the Board.
- The Respondents' failure to timely complete the peer review process constitutes a violation of 21 NCAC 08N .0203(b)(7).
- 3. The Respondents' failure to furnish to the peer review program selected financial statements, corre-

- sponding work papers, and any additional information or documentation required for the peer review program within eighteen (18) months of the issuance of the first report provided to a client constitutes a violation of 21 NCAC 08M .0105.
- 4. Per NC Gen. Stat. §93-12(9), and also by virtue of the Respondents' consent to this Order, the Respondents are subject to the discipline set forth below.

**BASED ON THE FOREGOING** and in lieu of further proceedings, the Board and the Respondents agree to the following Order:

- 1. The Respondent Mark T. Hawkins, CPA, is censured.
- The Respondent Firm may not perform any of the services listed in 21 NCAC 08M .0105(a) until such time that the Respondent Firm provides evidence of its enrollment in peer review and that a peer review has been scheduled, at which time the suspension will be stayed.
- Upon completion of its peer review, the Respondent Firm shall provide the Board with a complete copy of its Peer Review Report, Letter of Response, and Final Letter of Acceptance for further review and evaluation by the Board.
- 4. The Respondent Firm shall pay a two thousand dollar (\$2,000) civil penalty to be remitted with this signed Consent Order.

Approved by the Board March 17, 2020.

2020 Board Meetings			
Thursday	June 18	2 p.m.	Raleigh*
Monday	July 20	10 a.m.	Raleigh
Monday	August 17	10 a.m.	Raleigh
Monday	Sept. 21	10 a.m.	Raleigh
Monday	Oct. 19	10 a.m.	Raleigh
Monday	Nov. 23	10 a.m.	Raleigh
Monday	Dec. 14	10 a.m.	Raleigh

<sup>\*</sup>Previously scheduled for Winston-Salem

Pursuant to NCGS §143-318.10, all official meetings of the Board are open to the public. However, the public may be excluded from certain portions of the meeting as allowed by NCGS §143-318.11.

# CPA Exam Performance Summary: 2020 Q-1 North Carolina

Overall Performance		Section Performance			
Unique Candidates	771		<u>Sections</u>	<u>Score</u>	% Pass
New Candidates	261	First-Time	345	73.04	59.13%
Total Sections	875	Re-Exam	526	73.21	58.56%
Passing 4th Section	115	AUD	241	70.92	49.79%
Sections / Candidates	1.13	BEC	238	79.21	71.01%
Pass Rate	58.51%	FAR	201	69.16	52.74%
Average Score	73.10	REG	195	72.41	60.0%

## **Jurisdiction Ranking**

Candidates	Sections	
15	15 16	
7	15	
Pass Rate	Ava Score	

### **Certificates Issued**

On April 20, 2020, the Board approved the following individuals for licensure as North Carolina CPAs:

Shawn P. Adamo
Zachary Walker Ray Anderson
Mary Beth Antcliff
Stephen Christopher Arber
Scott Foster Armstrong
Jonathan David Austin
Eric Gregory Barnett
William C. Bauer
Sharon B. Bell
David Michael Boyd
Randeep Singh Brar
Ryan Wade Brown
Mark Stephen Bryant
Carlton Edward Bunn
Chuchu Xu Chatman
Jillian Elizabeth Davis
Stephen Michael Dille
Michele Ann DiPaolo
Christopher Michael Doughty
Megan Wallenhorst Druckrey
Michael Steven George
Thomas J. Geraghty, Jr.
Robert James Gluck

Joseph Larry Griffin, IV

Gregory Edward Morrow
Lauren Ann Nichols
Thomas Joseph O'Hara, Jr.
James Richard Pokorny
Raghav Madduri Reddy
Rachel Marie Reinker
Sandra Kay Richards
Mary Catherine Roberts
Luke Wesley Robertson
Neil Jay Rosenberg
Jason Arthur Rothenburger
Nicole Marie Scarborough
Jian Shen
Hyun min Shin
Patricia Pitts Spitz
Debra Michelle Starr
Breton James Tagg
Alex Kittrell Vaughn
Dennis Marlowe Vaughn, Jr.
Elizabeth Sharon Whelan
Yijing Teng Wyant
Matthew Oliver Young
Yidi Zhou

#### CPE Requirements for Non-Resident CPAs

Under 21 NCAC 08G .0401(j), a non-resident licensee may satisfy the annual CPE requirements in the jurisdiction where the CPA is licensed and currently works or resides.

If there is no annual CPE requirement in the jurisdiction where the CPA is licensed and currently works or resides, the CPA must complete the applicable number of CPE minutes stated in 21 NCAC 08G .0401(d).

To be eligible for certificate renewal, North Carolina CPAs--including non-resident CPAs with a primary office in North Carolina--must complete a learning activity on regulatory or behavioral professional ethics and conduct that meets the requirements of 21 NCAC 08G .0401.

All other non-resident licensees may satisfy the ethics CPE requirement by completing the ethics requirement in the jurisdiction in which he or she is licensed as a CPA and works or resides.

If there is not an ethics CPE requirement in the jurisdiction where the non-resident licensee works or resides, the licensee must complete an ethics activity conduct that meets the requirements of 21 NCAC 08G .0401.

If you are a non-resident CPA with questions about North Carolina's CPE requirements, please contact Cammie Emery by email at cemery@nccpaboard.gov.

#### Reissuance

At its April 20, 2020, meeting, the Board approved the application for reissuance submitted by Chrissey Michelle Thomas, #39900, of Marshall, NC.

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# How Do I Request Inactive Status?

CPAs may request inactive status through the Board's website, nccpaboard.gov.

To access the online form, click on the "Request Inactive Status" link in the "How Do I" box on the homepage.

After completing and submitting the form, you will receive an email that summarizes the information you entered and confirms your CPA certificate is on inactive status.

#### **CPE Audit Order**

The following matter is an excerpt from a Consent Order issued by the Board in response to the findings of the Continuing Professional Education (CPE) audit. To view the full text of a Consent Order, use the Licensee Search function of the Board's website, **nccpaboard.gov**, to look up the licensee's record. In the record, click on the "Details" link and select "View" under the Public Documents heading.

Under NCGS 93-12(9), civil penalties are remitted to the North Carolina Civil Penalty and Forfeiture Fund ("Fund") in accordance with NCGS 115C-457.2. NCGS 115C-457.1(b) states, "The Fund shall be administered by the Office of State Budget and Management. The Fund and all interest accruing to the Fund shall be faithfully used exclusively for maintaining free public schools."

#### DYLAN MICHAEL MCNIFF, #41388 | FREDERICK, MD

The Board opened a case against Dylan Michael McNiff (Respondent McNiff) for failure to complete the CPE required for renewal of his North Carolina CPA license.

Respondent McNiff signed a Consent Order in which he accepted the denial of the renewal of his CPA license; the forfeiture for at least one year of his CPA license; and the return of his CPA certificate to the Board within 15 days of his receipt of the Board's notification of its approval of the Consent Order.

Respondent McNiff may apply to return his CPA certificate to active

status by submitting a reissuance application that includes payment of the application fee; three moral character affidavits; payment of a \$1,000 civil penalty; and proof of completion of at least 40 hours of CPE including an eight-hour accountancy law course offered by the North Carolina Association of CPAs.

Failure to timely comply with any terms of the Consent Order will be sufficient grounds to revoke Respondent McNiff's CPA license.

Approved by the Board March 17, 2020.



Background Checks continued from page 1

If the background check is "clean," the application is processed. If the background check shows an offense that an applicant did not report, the Board holds the application until the applicant explains the item in question.

The Board's initial inquiry asks the applicant to confirm that the charge is genuinely the applicant's charge.

If the charge is not the applicant's, he or she must correct the inaccuracy and provide the Board with documentation of the correction.

If the charge is the applicant's, the applicant must explain in writing why he or she did not disclose the charge, describe the circumstances of the charge, and provide relevant documentation such as court records.

After reviewing the background check and pertinent information submitted by the applicant, the Board staff will process the application or ask for guidance from the Professional Education and Applications Committee.

Based on the Committee's recommendation, the application may be approved, approved with limitations, or denied.

An applicant may request a formal hearing before the Board to contest the denial of an application.

If you have questions about application-related background checks, contact David R. Nance, CPA, Deputy Director, at dnance@nccpaboard.gov, or Frank Trainor, Esq., Staff Attorney, at ftrainor@nccpaboard.gov.

### 2019 Elijah Watt Sells Award

The AICPA has honored 137 Uniform CPA Examination candidates with the 2019 Elijah Watt Sells Award. Nearly 75,000 individuals sat for the CPA Exam in 2019.

To qualify for the award, candidates must obtain a cumulative average score above 95.50 across all four sections of the Uniform CPA Examination, pass all four sections on their first attempt, and have completed testing in 2019.



The Elijah Watt Sells Award program was established by the AIC-PA in 1923 to recognize outstanding performance on the CPA Exam. Sells, one of the first CPAs in the US, was active in the establishment of the AICPA, and played a crucial role in advancing professional education within the profession.

The following winners either sat for the Uniform CPA Examination as a North Carolina candidate or graduated from a North Carolina college or university.

Carolyn Burns is a graduate of Wake Forest University with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and a Masters in Accounting from Wake Forest University. She is employed with E&Y in New York City, NY.

Hannah Chae is a graduate of UNC at Chapel Hill with a BS in Biology and a Masters in Accounting from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She is employed with Ernst & Young LLP in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Robert Geiger is a graduate of North Carolina State University with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and a Masters of Accounting. He is employed with Johnson Lambert LLP in Raleigh, NC.

Madison Hoff is a graduate of Wake Forest University with a Bachelor of Science in Accountancy and a Masters of Science in Accountancy. She is employed with Pricewaterhouse Coopers in New York, NY.



June 30, 2020, is the deadline for renewing your North Carolina CPA license. If you do not renew your license or request inactive status by July 1, 2020, you may be subject to forfeiture of your CPA license.

### **Inactive Status**

Between April 1, 2020, and May 14, 2020, the Board approved the individuals listed below for inactive status. "Inactive," when used to refer to the status of a person, describes a person who has requested inactive status and has been approved by the Board and who does not use the title certified public accountant, nor does he or she allow anyone to refer to him or her as a certified public accountant, and neither he nor she nor anyone else refers to him or her in any representation as described in Rule .0308(b) of this Section [21 NCAC 08A .0301(b)(20)].

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Durham, NC	Kathryn D. Rominger, #28156	Winston-Salem, NC
Carmel, CA	Gilbert Simonetti, III, #14260	Palo Alto, CA
Greensboro, NC	Katrina Coleman Whitt, #19195	Greensboro, NC
Holly Springs, NC	Robert Duran Campbell, #19304	Charlotte, NC
Alexandria, VA	Steven Michael Covington, #14997	Harrisburg, NC
Raleigh, NC	David Dove, #15845	Charlotte, NC
Charlotte, NC	Bonnie N. Halstead, #13500	Centreville, VA
Jamestown, NC	James Leo McGarry, #15305	Charlotte, NC
Mint Hill, NC	Charlies Elgin Oliphant, #14165	Charlotte, NC
Matthews, NC	Kathryn R. Brooks, #29692	Hudson, IL
Wake Forest, NC	Melissa Ann Young, #35643	Orlando, FL
Hickory, NC	William Boyne Fulmer, #3337	Mt. Pleasant, SC
Charlotte, NC	Thomas Jones Latham, #12880	Eden, NC
Greenville, SC	Linda Trogdon Chafin, #16590	High Point, NC
Carrboro, NC	Kenneth Howard James, #11664	Winston-Salem, NC
Alpharetta, GA	Judy Lynn Marshburn, #14961	Wallace, NC
Southport, NC	James Barry Padgett, #14645	Eden, NC
Weddington, NC	Tracy Thompson Patty, #23554	Raleigh, NC
Milton, GA	Jerry Glenn Savage, #9248	Elizabethtown, NC
Raleigh, NC	Nancy Jane Schaefer, #20494	Greensboro, NC
Arden, NC	Karen Alexander Schmitt, #16029	Concord, NC
Fort Mill, SC	Adam Robert Woeller, #43065	Florence, NJ
Roswell, GA	Alison Catherine Billman, #42768	Live Oak, TX
Raleigh, NC	Alan Keith Himebaugh, #41489	Round Rock, TX
McAdenville, NC	Krista Beeson Matthews, #18618	Lexington, NC
Durham, NC	Jiamin Mi, #43506	San Francisco, CA
High Point, NC	Pamela Jane Brinkley, #12115	Durham, NC
Charlotte, NC	Mary Johnson Brown, #17574	Marvin, NC
Seabrook Island, SC	Ryan Lee Martin, #38118	Jenison, MI
Charlotte, NC	J. Dwight Miller, #26638	Ellerslie, GA
Gray Court, NC	Yuliya Sergeyevna Morris, #37859	Rolesville, NC
Adel, GA	Cheryle Brown Williams, #13274	Hampstead, NC
Rutherfordton, NC	Gary Johnson Wolfe, #2263	Fleetwood, NC
Raleigh, NC	Luke John Morris, #42391	South Burlington, VT
Orange Park, FL	Gregory L. Smith, #21305	North Redington Beach, FL
Concord, NC	Marissa Renee Testori, #39522	Portland, OR
Winston-Salem, NC	Becky Best Uzzell, #18352	Hudson, NC
	Carmel, CA Greensboro, NC Holly Springs, NC Alexandria, VA Raleigh, NC Charlotte, NC Jamestown, NC Mint Hill, NC Matthews, NC Wake Forest, NC Hickory, NC Charlotte, NC Greenville, SC Carrboro, NC Alpharetta, GA Southport, NC Weddington, NC Milton, GA Raleigh, NC Arden, NC Fort Mill, SC Roswell, GA Raleigh, NC McAdenville, NC Durham, NC High Point, NC Charlotte, NC Seabrook Island, SC Charlotte, NC Gray Court, NC Adel, GA Rutherfordton, NC Raleigh, NC Charlotte, NC Gray Court, NC Adel, GA Rutherfordton, NC Raleigh, NC Orange Park, FL Concord, NC	Greensboro, NC Holly Springs, NC Alexandria, VA Raleigh, NC Charlotte, NC Jamestown, NC Wake Forest, NC Hickory, NC Carrboro, NC Alpharetta, GA Southport, NC Weddington, NC Aleigh, NC Aleigh, NC Charlotte, NC Greenville, SC Charlotte, NC Alpharetta, GA Southport, NC Mill, SC Arden, NC Alleigh, NC Aleigh, NC Charlotte, NC Greenville, SC Carrboro, NC Alpharetta, GA Southport, NC Weddington, NC Alpharetta, GA Southport, NC Weddington, NC Arden, NC Arden, NC Arden, NC Arden, NC Arden, NC Croswell, GA Raleigh, NC Charlotte, NC Corboro, NC Alpharetta, GA Southport, NC Weddington, NC Alpharetta, GA Southport, NC Weddington, NC Weddington, NC Tracy Thompson Patty, #23554 Alison Catherine Billman, #42768 Alaleigh, NC Alan Keith Himebaugh, #41489 Krista Beeson Matthews, #18618 Jiamin Mi, #43506 Pamela Jane Brinkley, #12115 Mary Johnson Brown, #17574 Reabrook Island, SC Charlotte, NC Gray Court, NC Adel, GA Rutherfordton, NC Raleigh, NC Adel, GA Rutherfordton, NC Raleigh, NC Raleigh, NC Adel, GA Rutherfordton, NC Raleigh,



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# Notice of Address Change

Notice of Address Change			
Please Print Legibly			
Full Name:			
		Last 4 Digits of SSN:	
Home Address:			
City/State/Zip:			
Home Phone No:	No: Home Fax:		
Personal Email:			
Firm/Business Name:			
Business Address:			
City/State/Zip:			
Business Phone No:		Business Fax:	
Business Email:			
Signature:			
Date:	Send mail to:	☐ Home ☐ Business	
Mail form to: PO Box 128 Fax form to: (919) 733-420		7605	

Pursuant to 21 NCAC 08J .0107, all certificate holders & CPA firms shall notify the Board in writing within 30 days of any change in home address & phone number; CPA firm address & phone number; business location & phone number; & email address.