



North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners

PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES November 20, 2023

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Gary R. Massey, CPA, President; Bernita W. Demery, CPA, Vice President; Jodi K. Kruse, CPA, Secretary-Treasurer; Maria M. Lynch, Esq.; D. Michael (Mickey) Payseur, CPA; Jennifer Van Zant, Esq.; and Arthur M. Winstead, Jr., CPA.

BOARD STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: David R. Nance, CPA, Executive Director; S. Lynne Sanders, CPA, Deputy Director; Frank Trainor, Esq., Staff Attorney; Lisa Hearne-Bogle, Communications Officer; Buck Winslow, Licensing Manager.

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Noel L. Allen, Esq., Board Legal Counsel; Sharon Bryson, CEO, NCACPA; Mark Sotichack, CPA, CEO, NCACPA; Robert Broome, Director of Advocacy, NCACPA; Jared Korver, CPA, NCACPA Board of Directors; and Sgt. J.D. Rattlelade, Raleigh Police Department.

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Massey called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST: Mr. Massey stated there were no recusals.

RULEMAKING HEARING: Mr. Massey called the Rulemaking Hearing to order at 10:02 a.m. He noted that the NC Office of Administrative Hearings published the proposed rule amendments in the *North Carolina Register* (Appendix I) on November 1, 2023. There was no oral or written testimony in support of or opposition to the proposed amendments. Ms. Van Zant moved, and Ms. Kruse seconded the motion to adopt the proposed rule changes as presented. The motion passed with seven (7) affirmative and zero (0) negative votes. Mr. Massey adjourned the Hearing at 10:04 a.m. The Rulemaking Hearing is a matter of public record.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Ms. Lynch moved, and Mr. Winstead seconded the motion to approve the amended agenda. The motion passed with seven (7) affirmative and zero (0) negative votes.

MINUTES: Ms. Kruse moved, and Ms. Demery seconded the motion to approve the October 23, 2023, meeting minutes as submitted. The motion passed with seven (7) affirmative and zero (0) negative votes.

FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY ITEMS: Mr. Payseur moved, and Mr. Winstead seconded the motion to approve the October 2023 financial statements as submitted. The motion passed with seven (7) affirmative and zero (0) negative votes.

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION ITEMS: Mr. Massey highlighted key sessions from the recent NASBA Annual meeting. Of specific note was the value of the Mid-Atlantic Regional Breakout Session led by Mr. Winstead. The session allowed boards of accountancy in the Mid-Atlantic region to share accomplishments and challenges over the past year and critical initiatives for the upcoming year. Mr. Massey, on behalf of the Board members, thanked Mr. Winstead for his leadership as the Mid-Atlantic Regional Director and voiced his appreciation for Mr. Winstead's service.

Mr. Nance shared NASBA's recommendation for boards of accountancy to implement the Credit Relief Initiative, which will allow the Board to reinstate expired CPA Exam section credits to individuals whose scores expired during the official period of the pandemic. The Board expressed support for this recommendation and authorized Mr. Nance to restore lost credits to impacted candidates who meet the requirements and to notify those candidates of the update to their candidate history file so they can continue their journey to become a CPA.

Mr. Payseur is a member of the AICPA committee responsible for evaluating passing scores on the CPA Exam. The Committee focuses on understanding what regulators will accept as the CPA Exam's high and low pass rates. He provided an update on the Committee's mid-November meeting. More data will be obtained as the test content is finalized, which should help inform conclusions.

STATE AND LOCAL ORGANIZATION ITEMS: Ms. Sanders summarized the recent joint staff meeting between the State Board and the NCACPA. She stated it was a positive experience for both organizations.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE REPORT: The Board approved with seven (7) affirmative and zero (0) negative votes the following recommendations of the Committee as presented by Mr. Winstead:

Case Nos. C2023165-1 and C2023165-2 - David Kern Blanton and David K. Blanton, CPA, PLLC - Approve the signed Consent Order. (Appendix II)

Case No. C2023075 - LEK Partners, LLC - Approve the signed Consent Order. (Appendix III)

Case No. C2023105 - Close the case without prejudice.

Case No. C2023131 - Close the case without prejudice.

Case No. C2023160 - Close the case without prejudice.

Case No. C2023164 - Close the case without prejudice with a Letter of Warning.

Mr. Winstead stated that the Committee provided guidance to Board staff on several other cases.

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION AND APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT: The Board approved with seven (7) affirmative and zero (0) negative votes the following recommendations of the Committee as presented by Ms. Demery:

Transfer of Uniform CPA Exam Grades - Approve the following applications for the transfer of Uniform CPA Exam grades:

Mujie Chen
Tiffany Jane Graham
Noriko Shokita (BEC)

Kritika Singhal
Yuying Zen

Original CPA Certificate Applications - Approve the following applications for original CPA certification:

Daniel Thomas Allwurden
Emily Claire Almerini
Tristan Elijah Baylock
Jerry Luke Bowers
Scott Ryan Buckstad
Duncan Russel Bullins
Darren Rashawn Burton
Mujie Chen
Rebecca Lauren Christensen
Christian Glenn Christophe
Thomas Stewart Coleman
Ashley Warren Compton
Elizabeth Sarah Coppock
Caleb Stewart Cronce
Jacob Daniel Cruz
Jessica Ann Dugan
Eamon McGuire Fogler
Bridget Marie Foos
Deidre Lynn Frazier
Timothy Joseph Gosnell
Tiffany Jane Graham
Jordan Hunter Gray
Ruben Samuel Greenstein
Rae Taylor Greer
Rebecca Anne Grizzle
Jessica Reed Haltom
Rachel Ann Hamrick
Taylor James Hemmelgarn
Justin Bryan Johnson
William Benjamin Knabe
Ka Lai Lam

Joshua David Leinheiser
Christopher James Leja
Destin Todd Lett
Matthew Stephan Lyon
Jon Edward Madsen
Anna Elizabeth Marion
Michael Joseph Matthai
Matthew Ryan McCullers
Marcus Pinson Neal IV
Stephanie Wells Nicholson
Benjamin Clay Oliver
Breanna Bowers Oliver
Haley Elizabeth Perry
Jacob Alan Reese
Shanna Ronnell Rizzo
Kevin Lee Shelton
Mackenzie Anne Short
Kritika Singhal
Meredith Godwin Singletary
Matthew Robert Smith
James Benjamin Stevens Jr.
Grace Kathryn Terrell
Laura Maria Tutterow
Uige Ujaan
Tyler Joe Ward
Michael Benjamin Wetsel
Kyrsten Bailey Whittington
Matthew James Windsette
Megan Marie Winter
James Boyce Wyatt
Yuying Zeng

Temporary Permits - Approve the following temporary permits approved by the Executive Director:

Lauren Nicole Ramos, T14108

Anh D. Nguyen, T14109

Austin Perry, T14110
Christopher Miramontes, T14111
Jillian Lee Lepson, T14112
Lynn Harmon Spinner, T14147
Wesley Ryan McManus, T14148
Shilpa Annigere Vamanamurthy, T14149
Courtney Lynn Weaver, T14150

Ronnie Edwin Harold, T14151
Michael Christopher Harris, T14152
Daniel Patrick Sullivan, T14153
Jun mo Kim, T14154
Joshua Andrew Nelson, T14155
Yuhe Fan, T14156

Reciprocal CPA Certificate Applications - Approve the following applications for reciprocal CPA certification:

Leydi M. Barbera
Jonathan Gabriel Berr
Wayne Gerald Brett
William Michael Buddendeck
Bryan Robert Capelli
Bridget Parker Clarke
Albert Michael Falzarano
Sarah Elizabeth Folkers
Mark Alan Franklin
Clayton Getsinger
Marlo Levett Hardiman
Ronnie Edwin Harold
Michael Christopher Harris
Zachary Thomas Hazelwood
Tedjo Sondyako Imardjoko
Andrew Izzo
Savannah Mae Kresge
Jillian Lee Lepson
Paul Scott Levine
Wai Myo Lin
Yu-Yun Lin
Patrick William Loftus Jr.
Mitchell Alton Lyon
Shannon J. Marino
Virginia Mae McMahan
Wesley Ryan McManus
Monique Kozlowski Menezes
John David Minotti

Yelena Vladimirovna Moshkovsky
Anh D. Nguyen
Kaitlyn Nicole Nolan
Lauren Van Son Nolen
Craig Kevin O'Toole
Kimberly Ann Pouilly
Reed Allen Puckett
Lauren Nicole Ramos
Matthew Rich
Kerrie L. Russo
Nicholas Xavier Sanders
Kerrin Danielle Santalesa
Samantha Jo Shaffer
Stephanie L. Sheipline
Rachel Ann Simpson
Lynn Harmon Spinner
Kaylee Savanna Ruth Spruill
Rachel Marie Holmberg Strong
Daniel Patrick Sullivan
Jaclyn O'Brien Switkes
Wen Tang
Mayu Taylor
Shilpa Annigere Vamanamurthy
Courtney Lynn Weaver
Zavier Darnell Webb
Lee Stuart Wishing IV
Robert William Wyatt

Reinstatements - Approve the CPA certificate reinstatement application submitted by the following individual:

Thomas L. Pender Jr., #28760

Reissuance of New Certificate - Approve the applications for reissuance of new certificate submitted by the following individuals:

Larry Douglas Bailey Jr., #30139
Laura Marie Johnson, #41497

Uniform CPA Exam Applications - Approve the applications for the Uniform CPA Exam submitted by the following individuals:

Brittany Adams
Callie Adams
Nathaniel Adams
Faith Adesina
Christopher Alesso
Mazen Algaradi
Riane Allen
JoAnnie Alvarez
Julio Alvarez
Ginger Anderson
Christopher Ange
Laken Appleby
Emily Armstrong
Brett Bailey
Sage Barfield
Holden Barham
Connor Barton
Hannah Bayliff
Peter Beam
Kevin Bell
Nathan Benn
Spencer Blackmore
Skyler Bohall
Cameron Bolick
Madison Bonello
Kristen Bonkowski
Zachary Boone
Joseph Boyle
Emma Bradvica
Corey Bramlett
Thomas Breedlove
John Brightman
Christian Brill
Caroline Britton
Austin Brooks
Ashley Brown
Alexandra Burnham

Grace Burrus
Ronald Cade
Rachael Cail
Amanda Campbell
Jonathan Carpenter
James Carslaw
Henry Caston
Anderson Chambers
Jacob Cherry
Caroline Clevenger
Bryan Collins
Amanda Cook
Hannah Cook
Janell Cooper
Ruth Cox
Zuleyka Cox
Ronald Crawford
Owen Crettol
Tanesha Crewes
Erin Crotty
Michael Cullen
Grace Davis
Virginia Dawson
Alida Dayton
Eden Deanhardt
Phyllis Delk
Emily Deskins
India Dickerson
Mai Doan
Rosabella Doan
Benjamin Doby
Josue Dominguez
Meagan Donovan
Emilee Drake
Michael Dunning
Louise Dupon
Devin Eason

Kelly Eddins
Aaron Eller
Michaela Emery
Kristin English
Josiah Fahey
Matthew Faircloth
Hua Fan
Steven Ferrin
Cory Fidurko
Matthew Field
John Folck
Jared Foshee
Mariah Fuentes
Dan-Michael Gallanosa
Nicholas Golebiowski
Jackson Goodwin
Jamal Graham
Katie Green
Ryan Grice
George Grier
Maggie Grondy
Jonathan Guevarez-Salgado
Vivian Guyton
William Hackley
Gregory Hales
Kenia Hall
Christopher Harborth
Caleb Harless
Courtney Harmon
Grant Harris
Rylie Harris
Spencer Harris
Tracy Helton
Benjamin Henderson
Mark Hensley
Alyse Herburger
Joseany Hernandez Juarbe
Eleanor Herring
Olivia Hill
Joshua Hincer
Chassidy Hodge
Anna Hollin
Taylor Hornyak
Rachel Hotman
Alexis Howell
John Hughes

Kaylee Hughes
Connor Hunt
Megan Hurley
Hamza Iqbal
Grant Jacobson
Frank Jennings
Lorena Jiang
Lutchia Johnson
Michael Johnson
Brandon Jones
Jessica Jones
Alexis Juarez
Gabrielle Juba
Alexa Kallesten
Hannah Keller
Karitsa Kerns
Caroline King
John King
Noah King
Stephanie King
Emily Kluth
Nicholas Leader
Osvani Ley
Sophie Lindner
Rebekah Lippard
Sonia Long
Aaron Lowry
Alma Lundberg
Elsah MacManus
Quy Dong Mai
Caroline Main
Jacqueline Maka
Dimitri Maldonado
Jansen Manley
Madalyn Marceron
Tyler Marriner
Timothy May
Olivia McCarthy
Meredith McKeever
Angus McQuoid
Emma McThenia
Harrison Moore
Richard Moore
Cindy Morales
Shane Morgan
Shenae Morrison

Brandon Morton
Rhonda Moseley
Cynthia Mosley
Michael Moul
Taner Moulton
Angela Munsie
Jaleesa Murphy
John Murphy
Taylor Murray
Jared Nadler
Elizabeth Neblett
Amy Nguyen
Jack Niemer
Sandra Nmai
Maria Noyola
Ryan O'Keeffe
Erica O'Rourke
Andrew Obimma
So Young Oh
Nathan Oldja
Tysinger Palmer
Jennifer Palmieri
Isaac Parker
Taylor Parks
Rachel Parsons
Aishni Patel
Akash Patel
Shreya Patel
Utsav Patel
Jessica Patrick
Reaghan Payne
William Peddycord
Clare Peitzman
Elizabeth Pena
Connor Pendergrass
Thanh Pham
Andrea Picou
Charrick Pierce
Kalejah Pierce
Matthew Pierson
Nickoleta Politis
McKenna Polk
Stephanie Pouliot
Matthew Power
Levi Pruett
Yinghan Qiu

Casmar Ramaswamy
Jamie Ramirez
Ezmeralda Ramirez Rojas
Vania Ramos Ponce
Grace Rathbun
Taylor Redman
Trevor Reed
Vida Reese
William Reeves
Rafaela Respass
Lauren Rinderknecht
Amanda Ringler
Bonni Roark
Briana Romero-Mancera
MaKala Rouse
Quin Ruschill
Shaurnetta Russell
Gregory Ryan
Kathryn Sadler
Lokesh Satyal
Claire Sawyer
Rachel Schneider
Lizbeth Serna
Lily Shafer
Russell Sherrod
Cayla Shinn
Janelle Shipotofsky
Brian Shobert
Michael Simmons
Thomas Simmons
Allison Simpson
Kyle Smaw
Dylan Smith
Payton Smith
ShaQuita Smith
William Speight
Mia Spencer
Teneshia Spencer
Lori Stahlberg
Mattie Starnes
Jada Staten
Kourtney Stone
Teresa Striblin
Ryan Strube
Michael Szabo
Zachary Tammelleo

Madison Tarlton
Jonathan Teague
Amy Thornburg
Mackenzi Thornburg
Katelyn Tindal
Morgan Tingen
Sara Tinsley
Julia Turner
Matthew Turner
Peyton Tyler
Nathan Jon Uy
Binh Vo
Adriana Vogel
Sierra Walker
Jonathan Walsh
Yujie Wang

Anna Ward
Elle Warshawsky
Lacey Way
Jack Weber
Leah Wells
Shelby White
Lucas Whitesides
Abigail Wiebking
Kaylah Wigglesworth
Christopher Williams
Trent Williams
Matthew Willis
Edgar Woodliff
Basir Wright
Yanxi Zhuo

Exam Score Extension Request - Approve three Exam credit extension requests related to expired credits that would be eligible for restoration under the Credit Relief Initiative.

As noted above, the Committee recommended that the Executive Director review current unexpired section credits for each candidate and extend Exam credit to the latest expiration date applicable for any Exam section for which the candidate has current credit.

CPA Firm Registration - Approve the professional limited liability company CPA firm registration applications submitted by the following firms:

Brennan CPA & Advisors, PLLC
Lilley Accounting Services, PLLC
Phillip Mills CPA, PLLC

EXECUTIVE STAFF AND LEGAL COUNSEL REPORT: The Board reviewed the October 2023 operational metrics, and Mr. Nance noted the metrics show a significant increase in Exam applications.

Ms. Sanders summarized the Executive Report and remarked that Felecia Ashe has been with the Board for 39 years as of November 16, 2023.

Mr. Payseur moved, and Mr. Winstead seconded the motion to approve a 1:00 p.m. start time for the meeting on February 19, 2024 (Appendix IV). The motion passed with seven (7) affirmative and zero (0) negative votes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no public comments.

ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Winstead moved, and Ms. Demery seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:54 a.m. The motion passed with seven (7) affirmative and zero (0) negative votes.

Respectfully submitted:



David R. Nance, CPA
Executive Director

Attested to by:



Gary R. Massey, CPA
President

PROPOSED RULES

TITLE 21 - OCCUPATIONAL LICENSING BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS
CHAPTER 08 – BOARD OF CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT EXAMINERS

Notice is hereby given in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.2 that the Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners intends to amend the rules cited as 21 NCAC 08F .0105 and .0401.

Link to agency website pursuant to G.S. 150B-19.1(c):
<https://nccpaboard.gov/>

Proposed Effective Date: April 1, 2024

Public Hearing:

Date: November 20, 2023

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: NC State Board of CPA Examiners, 1101 Oberlin Road, Suite 104, Raleigh, NC 27605

Reason for Proposed Action: *The proposed amendments to 08F .0105 is to move the score credit window from its current 18-month timeframe to a 30-month timeframe in line with the Uniform Accountancy Act and the timeframe being implemented for the Uniform CPA Exam across all jurisdictions nationwide. The proposed amendment to 08F .0401 is to return a qualifying statement that was recently removed from the rule in error. The NC general statutes allow experience to be earned both under the direct supervision of a licensed CPA or through other means including obtaining 4 years of experience in the field of accounting. The removal of the qualifying clause "to be under the direct supervision of a CPA" appears to indicate that all experience that is required shall be under the direct supervision of a CPA, eliminating the alternative options. Reinsertion of the qualifying clause will identify that the supervision earned under the direct supervision of a licensed CPA must occur under a CPA licensed within one of the US jurisdictions.*

Comments may be submitted to: David R. Nance, 1101 Oberlin Rd, Raleigh, NC 27605; phone (919) 733-4215; email dnance@nccpaboard.gov

Comment period ends: January 12, 2024

Procedure for Subjecting a Proposed Rule to Legislative Review: If an objection is not resolved prior to the adoption of the rule, a person may also submit a written objection to the Rules Review Commission. If the Rules Review Commission receives written and signed objections after the adoption of the Rule in accordance with G.S. 150B-21.3(b2) from 10 or more persons clearly requesting review by the legislature and the Rules Review Commission approves the rule, the rule will become effective as provided in G.S. 150B-21.3(b1). The Commission will receive written objections until 5:00 p.m. on the day following the day the Commission approves the rule. The Commission will receive letters via U.S. Mail, private courier service, or hand delivery to

1711 New Hope Church Road, Raleigh, North Carolina, or via email to oah.rules@oah.nc.gov. If you have any further questions concerning the submission of objections to the Commission, please review 26 NCAC 05 .0110 or call a Commission staff attorney at 984-236-1850.

Fiscal impact. Does any rule or combination of rules in this notice create an economic impact? Check all that apply.

- State funds affected
 Local funds affected
 Substantial economic impact (\geq \$1,000,000)
 Approved by OSBM
 No fiscal note required

SUBCHAPTER 08F - REQUIREMENTS FOR CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT EXAMINATION AND CERTIFICATE APPLICANTS
SECTION .0100 - GENERAL PROVISIONS
21 NCAC 08F .0105 CONDITIONING REQUIREMENTS

(a) Passing Grades. A candidate shall pass all sections of the examination with a grade of 75 or higher on each section.

(b) Military Service. A candidate who is on active military service shall not have the time on active military service counted against Subparagraph (c)(1) of this Rule unless the candidate applies to take the examination during the active military service, in which case each month a candidate sits shall be counted toward Subparagraph (c)(1) of this Rule.

(c) A candidate is subject to the following conditioning requirements:

- (1) a candidate shall earn a passing grade on all sections of the examination within ~~an 18-month period;~~ a 30-month period;
- (2) a candidate may sit for any section of the examination individually and in any order;
- (3) a candidate may retake the same section of the examination as many times during a one-year period as determined by the examination vendors but shall not retake a failed test section until the candidate has been notified of the score of the most recent attempt of that failed section;
- (4) credit awarded by the Board for passage of a section of the examination shall be valid for ~~an 18-month period~~ a 30-month period from the date the passing scores are released by the examination vendors;
- (5) the ~~18-month period~~ 30-month period begins on the date the first passing score is released to the candidate and concludes with the sit date of the final passed examination section, regardless of when the score is released by the examination vendors for the final passed section. A candidate, after earning credit for the initial passed section, must complete the remaining test sections of the examination by the last day of the ~~18-month period.~~ 30-month period. If all four sections of the examination are not passed

within the ~~18-month period~~, 30-month period, credit for any test section passed outside of the ~~18-month period~~ 30-month period shall expire; and

- (6) notwithstanding Subparagraphs (c)(1), (c)(4), and (c)(5) of this Rule, the period of time in which to pass all test sections of the examination may be extended by the Board upon a showing that the credit was lost by reason of circumstances beyond the testing candidate's control.

Authority G.S. 93-12(3); 93-12(4); 93-12(5).

SECTION .0400 - EXPERIENCE

21 NCAC 08F .0401 WORK EXPERIENCE REQUIRED OF CANDIDATES FOR CPA CERTIFICATION

(a) G.S. 93-12(5)(c) sets forth work experience alternatives, one of which is required of candidates applying for CPA certification. In connection with those requirements, the following provisions apply:

- (1) the work experience shall be acquired prior to the date a candidate applies for certification; and
- (2) all experience that is required to be under the direct supervision of a CPA shall be under the direct supervision of a licensed CPA on active status in one of the U.S. states or jurisdictions.

(b) The following provisions apply to all candidates seeking to meet the work experience requirement of G.S. 93-12(5)(c)(3) by working in the field of accounting:

- (1) One year of work experience is 52 weeks of full-time employment. The candidate is employed full-time when the candidate is expected by the employer to work for the employer at least 30 hours each week. Any other work is working part-time.
- (2) All weeks of actual full-time employment are added to all full-time equivalent weeks in order

to calculate how much work experience a candidate has acquired. Dividing that number by 52 results in the years of work experience the candidate has acquired.

- (3) Full-time-equivalent weeks are determined by the number of actual part-time hours the candidate has worked. Actual part-time hours do not include hours paid for sick leave, vacation leave, attending continuing education courses, or other time not spent directly performing accounting services. For each calendar week during which the candidate worked actual part-time hours of 30 hours or more, the candidate receives one full-time-equivalent week. The actual part-time hours worked in the remaining calendar weeks are added together and divided by 30. The resulting number is the additional number of full-time-equivalent weeks to which the candidate is entitled.

- (4) The candidate shall submit experience affidavits on a form provided by the Board from all of the relevant employers; provided that when such experience was not acquired while employed with a CPA firm, the candidate shall also submit details of the work experience and supervision on a form provided by the Board. Experience affidavits for part-time work shall contain a record of the actual part-time hours the candidate has worked for each week of part-time employment. Both the experience affidavit and the form for additional detail shall be certified by the employer's office supervisor or an owner of the firm who is a certificate holder.

(c) Rule .0409 of this Section applies to teaching experience acquired pursuant to G.S. 93-12(5)(c)(2) and (4).

Authority G.S. 93-12(3); 93-12(5).

NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT EXAMINERS
CASE #s C2023165-1/2

IN THE MATTER OF:
David Kern Blanton, CPA, #11975
David K. Blanton, CPA, PLLC
Respondents

CONSENT ORDER

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 N. C. Gen. Stat. § 150B-41, the Board and the Respondents stipulate to the following:

1. David Kern Blanton, CPA (hereinafter “Respondent”), is the holder of North Carolina certificate number 11975 as a Certified Public Accountant.
2. David K. Blanton CPA, PLLC (hereinafter “Respondent Firm”), is a registered certified public accounting firm in North Carolina. Hereinafter, the Respondent and the Respondent Firm are collectively referred to as the “Respondents.”
3. The Respondent Firm received a “fail” on its most recently completed system peer review, with an acceptance letter date of August 17, 2023. The peer review report was for the period ended April 30, 2022.
4. During the period of its most recent peer review, the Respondent Firm performed an audit for one client and agreed upon procedures (“AUP”) for another client.
5. The Respondent Firm failed the peer review because of deficiencies in both its audit engagement and AUP engagement.
6. The Peer Review Committee (“Committee”) required the Respondent Firm to undergo pre-issuance review of its audits and AUPs. The Respondent Firm asserted that it no longer desires to perform audit engagements. Therefore, that portion of the Committee requirements was waived.
7. The Respondent Firm successfully completed a pre-issuance review of its AUP engagement.
8. The Respondents wish to resolve this matter by consent and agrees 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:

1. 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.

Consent Order - 2
David Kern Blanton, CPA
David K. Blanton, CPA, PLLC

- By virtue of the facts set forth above, the Respondents violated Rules 21 NCAC 08N .0212 (Competence), .0403 (Audit Standards), and .0404 (Accounting and Review Services Standards).
- Per N.C. 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:

- The Respondent Firm is hereby censured.
- Each staff member of the Respondent Firm that participates in engagements subject to peer review must complete at least four (4) hours of group-study A&A CPE annually until the Respondent Firm receives a "pass" or "pass with deficiencies" on a peer review.
- If the Respondent Firm chooses to perform audit engagements in the future, then those engagements are subject to the Board's Pre-Issuance Review Procedures until released from pre-issuance review by the Board.

CONSENTED TO THIS THE 9 DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2023.
(Day) (Month) (Year)

David K. Blanton CPA PLLC
Respondent

David K. Blanton
Individual authorized to sign on behalf of Respondent Firm

APPROVED BY THE BOARD THIS THE 20 DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2023.
(Day) (Month) (Year)

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF CERTIFIED
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT EXAMINERS



NO BOARD OF
NOV 13 2023
CPA EXAMINERS

BY: Larry Massey
President

NORTH CAROLINA
WAKE COUNTY

BEFORE THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT EXAMINERS
CASE #: C2023075

IN THE MATTER OF:
LEK Partners, LLC
Respondent

CONSENT ORDER

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 N. C. Gen. Stat. § 150B-41, the Board and Respondent stipulate to the following:

1. LEK Partners, LLC (hereinafter “Respondent Firm”), has a principal place of business outside of North Carolina and has no office in North Carolina. The Respondent Firm is not a registered certified public accounting firm in North Carolina.
2. The Respondent Firm performed two audits of a retirement plan sponsored in North Carolina (“ERISA audit”).
3. The North Carolina Accountancy Act, at N.C. Gen. Stat. § 93-10(c)(3), requires firms to provide notice without a fee to the Board prior to performing financial statement audits or other engagements performed in accordance with the Statements on Auditing Standards. The members or partners of Respondent Firm were unaware of the notice requirement.
4. The Respondent Firm did not provide the Board with a Notification of Intent to Practice (“Notice”) prior to performing the ERISA audits.
5. There is no indication that the audits performed by the Respondent Firm were otherwise deficient.
6. The Respondent Firm wishes to resolve this matter by consent and agrees 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 Respondent Firm understands and agrees 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:

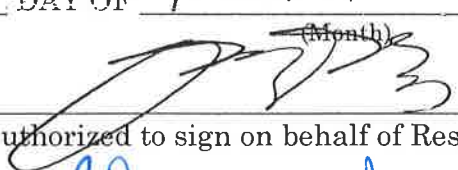
1. The Respondent Firm is subject to the provisions of Chapter 93 of the North Carolina General Statutes and Title 21, Chapter 08 of the North Carolina Administrative Code, including the Rules of Professional Ethics and Conduct promulgated and adopted therein by the Board.
2. By exercising the practice privilege afforded by N.C. Gen. Stat. § 93-10(c) of the Accountancy Act, the Respondent Firm consented to comply with the laws of this State and to be subject to the jurisdiction and disciplinary authority of the Board.

- 3. The Respondent Firm's failure to comply with N.C. Gen. Stat. § 93-10(c) of the Accountancy Act as set out above constitutes a violation of 21 NCAC 08N .0213.
- 4. Per N.C. Gen. Stat. § 93-12(9), 93-10(b) and also by virtue of Respondent Firm's consent to this order, the Respondent Firm is subject to the discipline set forth below.

BASED on the foregoing and in lieu of further proceedings, the Board and the Respondent Firm agree to the following Order:

- 1. The Respondent Firm shall remit, with this signed Order, a \$1,000.00 civil penalty.

CONSENTED TO THIS THE 6th DAY OF November, 2023
(Day) (Month) (Year)


Individual authorized to sign on behalf of Respondent Firm

APPROVED BY THE BOARD THIS THE 20 DAY OF November, 2023
(Day) (Month) (Year)

NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF CERTIFIED
PUBLIC ACCOUNTANT EXAMINERS



BY: Sam Massey
President

NC BOARD OF
NOV 13 2023
CPA EXAMINERS



North Carolina State Board of Certified Public Accountant Examiners

2024 Board Meetings

Day of Week	Date	Time	Event	Location
Monday	January 22	10 a.m.	Board Meeting	Raleigh
Monday	February 19	1:00 p.m.	Board Meeting	UNC Wilmington, Wilmington, NC
Wednesday	March 13	3 p.m.	Board Meeting	Raleigh
Wednesday	April 24	10 a.m.	Board Meeting	Raleigh
Monday	May 20	10 a.m.	Board Meeting	Raleigh
Monday	June 24	10 a.m.	Board Meeting	Raleigh
Monday	July 22	10 a.m.	Board Meeting	Raleigh
Monday	August 19	10 a.m.	Board Meeting	Raleigh
Monday	September 23	TBD	Board Meeting	Lenoir-Rhyne University, Hickory, NC
Monday	October 21	10 a.m.	Board Meeting	Raleigh
Monday	November 18	10 a.m.	Board Meeting	Raleigh
Monday	December 16	10 a.m.	Board Meeting	Raleigh

Changes will be published on the Board's website, nccpaboard.gov.

Approved 11/20/2023