

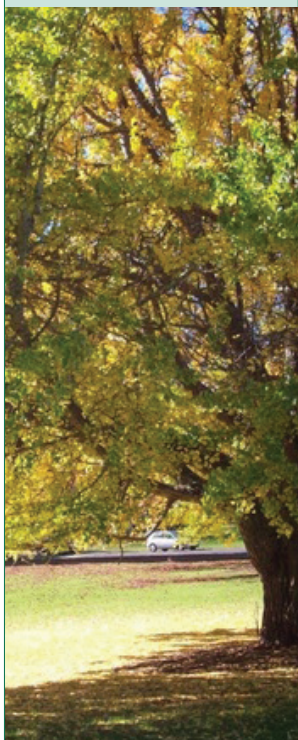


NEW HAMPSHIRE SOCIETY OF
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

CONNECTION

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NEW HAMPSHIRE SOCIETY OF
CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS



2022 Annual Meeting and CPA Inauguration Reception

Tuesday, May 10, 2022
5:00pm - 7:30pm
Manchester Country Club
Bedford, NH
\$45 per person

Network with dignitaries, firm executives, and up and coming leaders in the CPA profession. Witness and be the first to congratulate NH's newest CPAs as they take their ethics pledge. Join us for an evening of dinner, drinks and celebration!



Featuring Keynote Speaker, Stephen Pedneault, CPA, CFF, CFE, Principle at Forensic Accounting Services, LLC

Thank you to our Sponsors!



CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS



NHSCPA CONNECTION

A publication of the

New Hampshire Society of CPAs

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forensic accounting services, llc



Stephen Pedneault, CPA/CFF, CFE

Piecing together financial puzzles®

Stephen Pedneault is the Principal of Forensic Accounting Services, LLC, a Manchester, Connecticut CPA firm, focused exclusively on forensic accounting, fraud, and litigation support matters. His technical expertise and intuitive investigative awareness have made Stephen a sought after litigation expert by legal, accounting and law enforcement communities. Steve Pedneault is a highly regarded member and invaluable strategic partner of legal teams throughout the state.

Through his investigative work, Stephen has examined frauds ranging from a few thousand dollars to amounts well in excess of several million dollars. His expertise also lies in preventing and investigating embezzlements and financial statement frauds, evaluating financial disclosures in matrimonial and probate concerns, and utilizing forensic accounting within litigation matters.

Stephen Pedneault brings 32 years of public accounting experience, credentialed as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA), Certified in Financial Forensics (CFF), and a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE). He has an Associates Degree in Criminal Justice from Manchester Community College and a Bachelors Degree in Accounting from Eastern Connecticut State University, graduating Summa Cum Laude.

Stephen has written five books published by Wiley. *Fraud 101* (September 2009), *Anatomy of a Fraud Investigation* (January 2010), *Preventing And Detecting Employee Theft And Embezzlement, A Practical Guide* (June 2010), *Forensic Accounting and Fraud Investigations for Non-Experts* (April 2012), and *Managing Client Emotions in Forensic Accounting and Fraud Investigations* (August 2021). In addition, Stephen has contributed to three fraud case books and one other publication, and authored numerous published articles appearing locally and nationally.

As an adjunct faculty member to the University of Connecticut School of Business, Steve has developed an innovative course on forensic accounting that has been offered since 2008 within UConn's Masters of Science in Accounting (MSA) program. The course provides an overview of forensic accounting, identifying the qualities and attributes required of a forensic accountant, and provides students with an approach and skill set to enable them to perform a forensic accounting assignment.

Stephen is a frequent guest lecturer and an adjunct faculty member at the Manchester Community College. He has been requested by businesses and student organizations to speak over 350 times on a range of topics including forensic accounting, fraud prevention, risk assessment, embezzlement, probate concerns, and other related issues at local and national venues.

935 Main Street • Manchester, CT • 860.647.1742 • www.fasman.com • steve@fasman.com

**NEW HAMPSHIRE SOCIETY OF
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Kerrin A. Rounds, CPA

President

(603) 254-6152

kerrin.rounds@dhhs.nh.gov

Karen Lascelle, CPA, CVA, CFE

President Elect

(603) 882-1111

kboulay@melansonheath.com

Jason Beiswenger, CPA

Treasurer

(603) 627-3838

jason.beiswenger@wipfli.com

Kerry Lekas, CPA/PFS, CFP, MST, RLP,

Secretary

(603) 434-2889 x113

kerry@dufresnecpa.com

Jessica S. Bouchard, CPA, 2021

Director

(603) 626-2222

jbouchard@bnnpcpa.com

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Immediate Past President

ninajchang@gmail.com

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Lynn C. Rust, CPA, PC

(603) 358-6565

jonblais@gmail.com

Richard Engler, CPA, 2022

Bigelow & Company

(603) 627-7653

rengler@bigelowcpa.com

Kevin C. Kennedy, CPA, 2022

Maloney & Kennedy, PLLC

(603) 624-8819

kevken.cpa@comcast.net

Lisa Gerrish, MBA, CPA, 2020

Southern New Hampshire University

(800) 668-1249

l.gerrish@snhu.edu

Adam M. Lord, CPA, CNAP

Penchansky & Co., PLLC

(603) 647-2400

adam@penchansky.com

Brian P. Lortie, CPA, MST

Cummings, Lamont & McNamee, PA

(603) 772-3460

blortie@clmcpa.com

Ashley Miller Klem, CPA

Plodzick & Sanderson, PA

(603) 225-6996

amiller@plodzick.com

Jeffrey Murphy, CPA, MST, MBA

Medaglia & Murphy Inc.

(603) 889-4411

Jeffrey@medagliaco.com

Jonathan D. Nash, CPA, CMA, CISA, Ph.D

University of New Hampshire

860) 918-1266

Jonathan.nash@unh.edu

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Robin Abbott, CEO

rabbott@nhscpa.org

Juliana Sullivan, Director of Operations

jsullivan@nhscpa.org

From the President

Dear Members.



As I conclude my year as Board President of the NHSCPA, I'm reflecting on all the unprecedented challenges we've all faced in our personal and professional lives. For the Society this meant increasing our virtual CPE offerings, expanding our podcast with new and timely interviews, a move out of our commercial office space in Manchester to a more flexible work space, applying for PPP funds and focusing on overall business cost reductions. This was in

addition to the regular work of the Society such as involvement in legislative hearings, joint meetings with the NH Department of Revenue Association, NH Board of Accountancy, and New Hampshire business affiliates as well as continued collaborations with other New England State Societies.

The personal challenges were and continue to be much harder, and much more expansive. I encourage you to go back to the last two newsletters where resources were provided on how to find resources to support you and your family and friends regarding mental health and wellness if needed. Nothing is more important than keeping those near and dear to us healthy and prioritizing mental health should play an important role in our lives.

As we move forward in 2022, with renewed spirit for better times, I am confident that the NHSCPA will be resilient in all of their initiatives and efforts. Thank you to Robin and the NHSCPA staff for their hard work and I wish Karen Lascelle a successful term as she enters the role as NHSCPA President.

Sincerely,

Kerrin A. Rounds

2021-2022 President, NH Society of CPAs





Robin Abbott, CEO

Greetings from NHSCPA

Once again, we are beginning the tax season with a recognition of the complex work that lies ahead during a time of unprecedented uncertainty. And once again, members of our profession continue rising to the challenge for their colleagues,

clients and business partners.

At the NH Society of CPAs, we are embarking on this upcoming year with a renewed sense of hope and determination to provide the best models of support and services for education, legislative involvement, members benefits and student involvement. We are also looking forward to participating in a live Annual Meeting and CPA Inauguration, the first since May of 2019, and the excitement of seeing many of our friends and colleagues again. It will be such a nice change of pace to speak to someone without a “chat box” or Zoom link.

This event will also allow us the opportunity to share with you our brand new look which includes new logo design, and website. This effort has been a long time coming and thanks to all of your input and support,

especially from our Corporate sponsors, it will finally be realized.

I also want to take this moment to thank my incredible Board of Directors. As I’ve stated many times, the right people often lead the efforts that determine the best outcomes and in this case, it was extremely apparent. Kerrin Rounds of the Dept. of Health and Human Services has led this organization with incredible strength and perseverance. Her voice of calm and determination to inform our members has elevated us to a place of resolve, positivity and continued focus. I want to thank her for all of the incredible work she does for us and for the entire state of New Hampshire.

Lastly and not uncommonly, I’d like to close with my sincere appreciation for your membership and loyal support. We wish you health and happiness and all that comes on the other side of these challenging times and please remember that we are always here for you.

With continuous gratitude,

Robin Abbott

Robin Abbott, CEO
NH Society of CPAs



FINANCING SOLUTIONS FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE NON-PROFITS



NEW HAMPSHIRE HEALTH AND EDUCATION FACILITIES AUTHORITY



What is NH HEFA and what does it do?

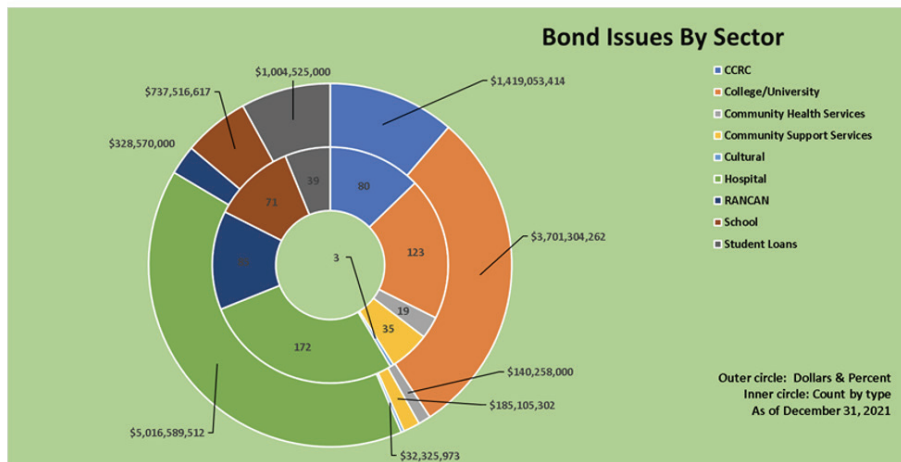
NH HEFA was established in 1969 to work with health & educational institutions, designated as a not-for-profit 501(c)(3), to provide access to high quality, readily available, low-cost financing alternatives. NH HEFA financings pose NO financial risk to the State of New Hampshire and NH HEFA financings do not involve any taxpayer or public funds.

What is NH HEFA's Mission?

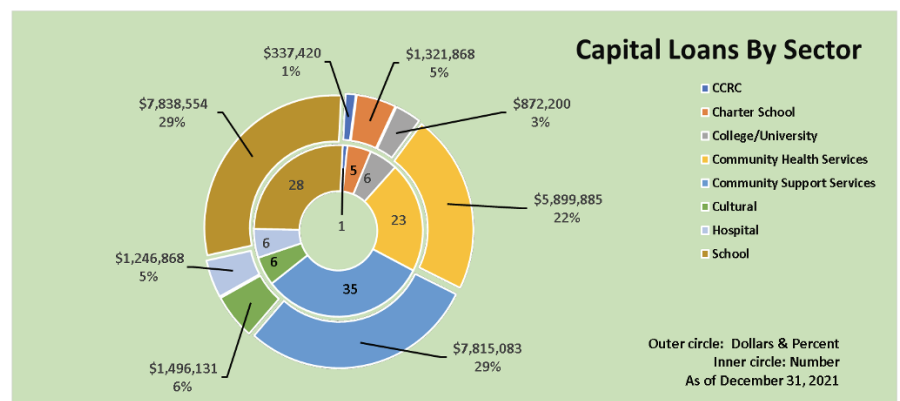
The mission of the New Hampshire Health and Education Facilities Authority is to lower the cost of health and education services in New Hampshire, by providing eligible institutions with access to financing alternatives in order to support our borrowers in their missions.

What Programs are available?

NH HEFA issues bonds for many different sectors of New Hampshire:



NH HEFA participates with local banks in a Capital Loan Program:



NH HEFA also offers a Direct Loan Program

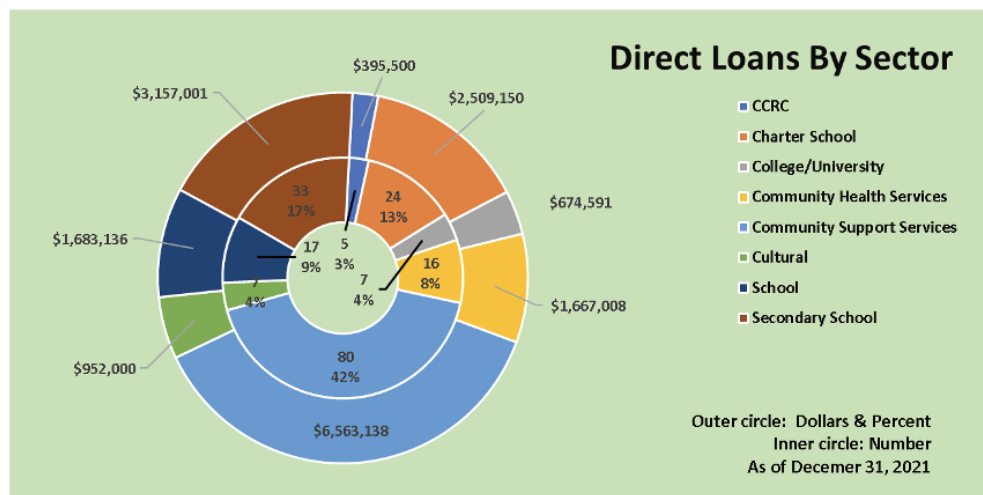
Established in 2009, the Direct Loan Program is designed to provide loans to meet the financing needs of a borrower for projects between \$50,000 and \$300,000, at below market rates. Loans under \$200,000 currently have a fixed interest rate of 1% and a term up to 5 years. Loans up to \$300,000 currently have a fixed rate of 2.25% and terms up to 10 years. These funds may be used for the purchase of capital equipment, the acquisition of real estate, construction, or renovations of facilities, refinancing of existing debt, emergency repairs, vehicle purchases or other matters as determined by the Board.

For example, NH HEFA recently worked with Community Crossroads in Atkinson, New Hampshire. This organization was established in 1979. Its mission is “to provide people in need of long term supports, either through age or disability, with the information, guidance, support and advocacy they need to remain in their chosen homes and live full, independent lives”.

A client of Community Crossroads was in need of a vehicle. Without transportation, this vibrant consumer would no longer have access to visits with friends and family, be able to volunteer in the community, and would have no access to required essential services for medical care, food, and daily shopping needs.

Seeking access to affordable funding for the purchase of a new vehicle, Community Crossroads reached out to New Hampshire Health and Education Facilities Authority (NH HEFA) and inquired about the Direct Loan Program. Just 36 days after the application was submitted, the loan was approved, and the funds were dispersed with a fixed interest rate of 1% for 5 years and the new vehicle was purchased. The Authority received an email from Community Crossroads saying, “A very happy client is about to get their new van, thank you again!”

As of December 31, 2021, HEFA has closed 189 Direct Loan Program loans totaling over \$17 million, current outstanding \$4,597,398.36:



We have funds to loan to non-profits at below market rates of interest reducing their cost to borrow funds to complete a project or to begin a new one. OUR mission is to help support THEIR mission. Help us spread the word and make NH HEFA a true partner in progress statewide. If you know a not-for-profit that has a project and could benefit from one of these programs, contact Bonnie S. Payette at 603-224-0696 or email bpayette@nhhefa.com to discuss financing needs.

Significant Changes to the Build Back Better Act: What's In, What's Out and What's Coming

On September 13, 2021, the House Ways and Means Committee released proposed legislation known as the “Build Back Better Act” that included a host of tax increases focused on high-income individuals and corporations at an estimated cost of \$3.5 trillion. On October 28, 2021, the House Budget Committee released a significantly revised version of the Build Back Better Act which retained, removed and modified several proposed tax increases focused on high-income individuals and corporations at a reduced cost of \$1.75 trillion. On November 19, 2021, the Build Back Better Act passed in the House of Representatives. Deliberations in the Senate are expected to start in early December, with a vote prior to the holidays. This alert, which is current as of November 22, 2021, summarizes some of the major tax provisions included in the revised proposed legislation.

What's Out? – Income Taxes

The following income tax proposals that were included in the version of the Build Back Better Act released by the House Ways and Means Committee on September 13, 2021 are not included in the latest version of the Build Back Better Act:

- Increase in the top marginal individual income tax rate.
- Increase in the capital gains rate for certain high income individuals.
- Limitation of the qualified business income deduction for certain high income individuals.
- Increase in the top federal corporate tax rate from 21% to 26.5% (but imposes a 15% minimum tax on large corporations and 1% surcharge on certain corporate stock buybacks).
- Five-year holding period for favorable capital gains taxation of carried interests.
- Certain tax-free S corporation reorganizations.

What's Out?

Transfer Taxes (*i.e.*, Estate, Gift and GST Taxes)

The following transfer tax proposals that were included in the version of the Build Back Better Act released by the House Ways and Means Committee on September 13, 2021 are not included in the latest version of the Build Back Better Act:

- Taxation of certain transfers between a deemed owner and an irrevocable grantor trust.
- Gross estate inclusion for the deceased deemed owner of assets held in an intentionally defective grantor trust under certain circumstances.
- Decrease of the estate and gift tax lifetime exemption.
- Prohibition on valuation discounts for certain transfers of nonbusiness assets.

What's In? – Income and Transfer Taxes

The most recent iteration of the Build Back Better Act does not implement changes to the transfer tax system. The income tax provisions that remain in the most recent rewrite are as follows:



- Expansion of the Net Investment Income Tax

Under current law, a net investment income tax (“NIIT”) of 3.8% is imposed on net investment income. The term “net investment income” does not include income (i) derived in the ordinary course of a trade or business, or (ii) income attributable to the disposition of property outside of a “passive activity.” The proposed legislation removes the foregoing exceptions so that the NIIT applies to essentially all earnings from pass-through businesses, both passive and active, for taxpayers with modified adjusted gross income in excess of \$400,000 for single filers, \$500,000 for joint filers, and \$12,500 for trusts and estates. The NIIT would apply to income not already subject to FICA taxes. Net operating losses would no longer be accounted for in determining net investment income. The proposed effective date for this change is for tax years beginning after December 31, 2021.

- Limitation of the Small Business Stock Exclusion

The special 75% and 100% exclusion rates under Section 1202 would not be available to taxpayers with adjusted gross incomes in excess of \$400,000, or any estate or trust. The baseline 50% exclusion

would remain available to all taxpayers. The amendments made by this section are proposed to apply for sales of qualified small business stock acquired after February 17, 2009, and sold after September 13, 2021, subject to a binding contract exception.

- Limitation on Excess Business Losses

The temporary limitation on excess business losses (*i.e.*, net business deductions in excess of business income) set to expire after 2025 would become permanent. In addition, carryforward losses would be treated as excess business losses rather than net operating losses. In effect, this means the largest net operating loss that can be carried forward from any one year is limited to \$500,000. The proposed effective date would be for tax years beginning after December 31, 2020.

- Corporate Minimum Tax

A corporate minimum tax of 15% for certain large corporations reporting profits in excess of \$1 billion for the year would be imposed.

- Limited Contributions and Accelerated Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) for Certain Retirement Accounts; Backdoor IRAs Prohibited

Taxpayers with taxable income in excess of \$450,000 for joint filers and \$400,000 for single filers would be prohibited from making additional contributions to individual retirement accounts (“IRAs”) once balance exceeds \$10 million. In addition, such owners of large IRAs would be forced to take RMDs at an accelerated rate.

In addition, the use of so-called “Backdoor Roth IRAs” would be prohibited. Under current law, the Backdoor Roth IRA allows a taxpayer phased-out of making contributions to a Roth IRA due to certain high income thresholds to make nondeductible contributions to a traditional IRA, then later covert such IRA to a Roth IRA. Distributions from traditional IRAs are taxed at ordinary income rates, whereas distributions from Roth IRAs are generally tax-free.

- Substantial Tax Credits Offered for Investment in Affordable Housing, Green Energy Projects and Electric Vehicles.



What's Still In, But Modified?

- Surtax on High-Income Individuals, Trusts and Estates

A surtax equal to 5% would be imposed on a taxpayer's modified adjusted gross income in excess of: (i) \$10 million for single and joint filers; (ii) \$5 million for a married individual filing separately; and (iii) \$200,000 for an estate or trust.

An additional surtax of 3% (8% total surtax) would be imposed on a taxpayer's modified adjusted gross income in excess of: (i) \$25 million for single and joint filers; (ii) \$12.5 million for a married individual filing separately; and (iii) \$500,000 for an estate or trust.

For the above income thresholds, modified adjusted gross income means adjusted gross income reduced by any deduction allowed for investment interest. For an estate or trust, the income thresholds are based on adjusted gross income as determined under Section 67(e).

The proposed effective date for these surtaxes is for taxable years beginning after December 31, 2021.

- Excise tax on Repurchase of Public Traded Corporate Stock

A 1% excise tax on publicly traded US corporations

for the value of any of its stock that is repurchased by the corporation would be imposed. The proposed effective date for this excise tax is for tax years beginning after December 31, 2021.

- Increase on State and Local Tax Deduction

The cap on state and local tax (SALT) deductions would be increased from \$10,000 to \$80,000 through 2030. The SALT deduction cap would return to \$10,000 for 2031 and then expire. The proposed effective date would apply retroactively to tax years beginning after December 31, 2020.

- Additional Enforcement Funding for the IRS

The IRS would be appropriated nearly \$79 billion to modernize its operations and increase enforcement activities on taxpayers with income in excess of \$400,000.

What's Next?

The Build Back Better Act will continue to make its way through the legislative process, which will likely result in varying iterations of the proposed legislation before the legislation is put to a vote. Certain provisions that have been removed from the September 13, 2021 House Ways and Means Committee version of the bill could be included in a later version to stay within the boundaries of certain budgetary rules to ensure compliance with the budget reconciliation process.

About the Authors



For more information, contact Nicholas Bjornson or Craig Benson at Koley Jessen at nicholas.bjornson@koleyjessen.com or craig.benson@koleyjessen.com

Bjornson's practice focuses on federal, state, and international taxation of corporations, partnerships, and individuals. Benson counsels business owners, families, and individuals, and works with their CPAs in the structuring and implementation of plans to ensure wealth accumulation and protection through sophisticated tax minimization and mitigation techniques.



Rust & Company CPAs – All Inclusive Accounting Solutions

Tax Preparation And Planning, QuickBooks And Technology Consulting, And More

By Lori Catozzi Cook

For over 28 years, Rust & Company CPAs – located at 217R Old Homestead Highway (Route 32) in Swanzey – has provided the Monadnock Region with exemplary tax and accounting services. The founder, Lynn C. Rust, passed away in 2021, and since then, longtime employees Jonathan Blais, CPA; Christina Downing, EA; and Senior Accountant Katherine Staiti have stepped in to continue Rust's legacy.

"We will treat you like people – listening, asking questions, and taking the time to understand your business, your goals, and your needs," says Blais. "We're great with numbers, but more importantly, we are advisors. We work with you to gain a deep understanding of where you are now as well as where you want to be."

This local CPA firm has received many accolades over the years, including the Distinguished Service Award by the NH Society of CPAs in 2021, the Gold for "Best Local Accountant" in *The Monadnock Shopper News'* Readers' Choice Awards, and the Bronze/Silver for "Best Local Tax Preparer" in the *Sentinel's* Choice Awards. And the notability doesn't end there, as clients



Jonathan Blais, CPA, Katherine Staiti, and Christina Downing, EA.

can attest to their positive experience, year after year, with Rust & Company CPAs.

"We have been using Lynn Rust CPA for many years now," says Donna Clark of Treehugger Farms. "I am so happy with the staff; they are always making my business life easier. They always have answers to all of my questions and direct me to better ways to make my accounting better. They really look out for their customers."

"I have had Rust & Company prepare my taxes for the last four years with some complicated problems," says Ellen Nichols. "They have always worked out my issues. I recommend Rust & Company for your yearly taxes or any tax issues."

"We aren't your average accounting firm," Blais continues. "We know the cookie-cutter approach doesn't cut it when your profitability and future is at stake, which is why we take the time to get to know you, your business, and your goals. We strive to help you take control of your books, make informed decisions, and instill the peace of mind that comes with knowing a team of friendly, knowledgeable advisors are only a call or message away."



Downing chimes in: “We know one of your top priorities is paying less tax. We help you achieve this through comprehensive tax planning. Whether you’re an individual or corporation, we can accommodate your needs. We offer a range of tax services from basic tax return preparation to a full comprehensive year round tax advisory plan which could include bookkeeping oversight, tax estimate reminders, IRS assurance for potential tax notices, or in-depth tax planning throughout the year. We work with you throughout the year to develop a customized plan with tax-saving strategies that are tailored to your unique situation.”

She goes on to say that the personal, one-on-one service and expert tax return preparation and advice that their clients receive give them peace of mind knowing that their tax returns are in capable hands.

“We believe that being your accountant goes way beyond the basics of accounting, preparing taxes, and maintaining compliance,” Downing adds. “Those practices are just the foundation of the complete financial performance we offer. As your trusted advisors, we take the clarity and financial facts about who you are and where you are and help you plan for the future of your company. We help you identify potential pitfalls

to avoid, metrics for growth, and future opportunities to capitalize on.”

Rust & Company CPAs take the approach that for individuals and businesses to be successful they need to work together on an ongoing basis. That is where the outsourced accounting model comes into play. This all-inclusive, streamlined, and efficient service offers small businesses relief from the day-to-day accounting hassles while providing 24/7 access to financial data.

“We have seen our share of clients who have come to us at tax time with a shoe box of receipts and need to have their whole year of bookkeeping created after the year is done,” says Staiti. “This is no way to be proactive with tax planning, making educated business decisions, or identifying trends. Our team can help your business utilize technology to its fullest potential. Don’t know where to start? Grab your shoe box and your willingness and desire to make a change and give us a call. We would love to discuss your current workflow and software applications and provide a fresh take on keeping your books up to date with automated and efficient processes.”

Rust & Company CPAs is open Mondays–Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. For more details, call 603-358-6565, email info@rust.cpa, or visit www.rust.cpa.

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Update Your Profile

An accurate membership record helps the NHSCPA maintain the highest level of customer service and ensures the accuracy of mailings and online news. You can update your record any-time by logging into your

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NEW HAMPSHIRE UNION LEADER

Ramey Sylvester

Corporate, M&A and Securities Attorney, McLane Middleton



Age 36, Manchester resident

Birthplace: Berrien Springs, Michigan

High school: Great Lakes Adventist Academy

Post grad degrees: Juris Doctor

What is the best career advice you ever received?

You don't get extra credit for beating up on yourself. Review where you went wrong, fix the mistakes and move on.

What motivates you to give back to your community?

I realized that I am the manifestation of my ancestors' wildest dreams. As I stand on their shoulders, it's my obligation to similarly be a stepping stone for my community.

What advice would you give your 22-year-old self?

Be brave! Travel more, love harder, try new things, rebrand mistakes as life lessons, accept and enjoy yourself, and lean into what you fear.

Volunteer activities: Chair – Corporation, Banking and Business Law Section, NH Bar Association; member – Supervisory Committee, Service Credit Union; Commission Member – Access to Justice Commission.

Last major achievement: Learning to forgive myself for what I believed to be major failings and extending forgiveness in kind.



NH Society of CPAs Legislative Report Winter 2022

January 13, 2022

The 2022 session of the General Court has begun. It will be a fast and furious session with the House and Senate taking up nearly 900 pieces of legislation. Both bodies are hoping to be finished voting on all bill by early May except those that go to a committee of conference. As you can imagine, there are a few main areas of concentration for bills this year: vaccines; emergency powers; and school choice. So where are taxes in all of this. There are several bills, as usual, that deal with local exemptions to property taxes for the elderly and disabled. Also, there are a few bills having to do with the municipalities share of state taxes such as rooms and meals. And we have a reduction in the CST (Communications Services Tax) as well as the BPT and BET. However, if you are a big business and pay low wages, one Representative wants your BPT to go up.

The Society is most interested in a couple of bills. SB 435 modifies the NOL carryover for the BPT and BET. The Legislative Committee is analyzing this bill and discussing with DRA. We will act as a resource to the Committee once the bill has a hearing. Also, a bill left over from last year is moving forward to the Senate which we will pay attention to, HB 102 creating a commission to study the advantages and disadvantages to NH's revenues if the water's edge methodology is replaced by a worldwide combined reporting method for reporting and apportioning BPT. The Society has a seat on the Commission if it becomes law.

More to come as the session progresses.





Payroll | Bookkeeping
172 Rockingham Road Londonderry, NH 03053
info@businesscents.com | 603.537.1112
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Nathan Wechsler Announces New Supervising Senior



Concord, NH – The regional accounting firm of Nathan Wechsler & Company, PA is pleased to announce the addition of **Kimberly Lemieux**, CPA to their professional team.

With over six years' experience as an accounting professional, Lemieux joins Nathan Wechsler

as a supervising senior in the firm's tax department. In this role, Lemieux performs work on a variety of clients, including accounting, compliance, income tax return preparation, and special projects. She specializes in working with real estate entities, C Corporations, and high net worth individuals.

"I would like to extend a very warm welcome to Kim as she joins the firm," said Oreste "Rusty" Mosca, Managing Director of Nathan Wechsler & Company, PA. "Her experience and attitude are the exact qualities that we

seek out as we search for seasoned talent to add to the team. I am looking forward to working with Kim and watching her continue to grow and develop as a professional."

Lemieux holds both a Bachelor of Science in Accounting and a Master of Science in Taxation from Bentley University. In her downtime, she enjoys traveling, attending plays, and spending time with family and friends.

Since 1957, Nathan Wechsler & Company, PA has provided a full range of business advisory and compliance services to clients who operate in nearly all 50 states, as well as overseas. With a team of more than 40 professionals working out of offices in Concord, Keene, and Lebanon, NH, the firm offers a wide range of business advisory services, as well as traditional tax and accounting engagements. Though Nathan Wechsler & Company, PA serves many types of clients, the firm sustains industry-specific expertise in the construction, real estate, nonprofit, manufacturing, and wholesale/distribution industries. For more information, visit nathanwechsler.com.



The Tax Consequences Conundrum In Valuing Assets in a Divorce

By R. David DePuy and Jacqueline A. Leary of
McLane Middleton

In the summer of 2020, There is a duality of rules and considerations applicable to the valuation of assets in New Hampshire divorces. One set of rules and considerations is applicable prior to trial and another at trial. The difference in these two sets of rules is whether tax consequences upon the sale of an asset shall be considered in valuing the asset.

The New Hampshire property settlement statute listing the factors that the trial court may consider in making an equitable division of assets in a divorce includes: “The tax consequences for each party.” N.H. RSA 458:16-a, II (j).

The New Hampshire Supreme Court, however, has held that in valuing marital assets subject to division in a divorce, the trial court “may only consider potential taxes in valuing marital assets if a taxable event such as a sale or other transfer of property is required by the property distribution, or is certain to occur shortly thereafter.” In the Matter of Telgener & Telgener, 148 N.H. 190, 192 (2002). The Supreme Court in Telgener stated that otherwise the trial court would be engaging in speculation. *Id.* at 192-193.

The Supreme Court, nevertheless, has made another exception to the Telgener rule. It has held that where “potential future tax liability reasonably affects the fair market value of a marital asset the trial court may consider that liability in determining the present fair market value of the asset. In the Matter of Wolters & Wolters, 168 N.H. 150, 158 (2015). The Wolters decision referenced the case of Rattee v. Rattee 146 N.H. 44 (2001) where it approved the trial court taking “into account accrued tax liabilities in determining the fair market value of the parties’ properties. Rattee dealt with the valuation of stock in a closely held corporation. Rattee, 146 N.H. at 50.” Wolters & Wolters, 168 N.H. at 157.

Thus, where the price a willing buyer might pay for stock of a corporation is affected by potential future



Dave DePuy is Chair of McLane Middleton’s Family Law Practice Group. He can be reached at (603) 628-1345 or david.depuy@mcclane.com. Jacqueline Leary is Vice Chair of McLane Middleton’s Family Law Practice Group. She can be reached at (603) 628-1178 or jacqueline.leary@mcclane.com.

tax liability, the trial court may consider evidence of such tax liability in determining the fair market value of the stock. The distinction between the Rattee and Telgener cases is that in Rattee, evidence of potential tax liability was considered to determine the present fair market value of assets to be distributed in the divorce proceeding. Telgener, held that the trial court may not consider potential tax liability to the parties upon sale of an asset after distribution, “unless the sale or transfer is required by the court’s order or is certain to occur shortly thereafter.” Wolters at 158, citing the Telgener case, 148 N.H. 192-193.

The New Hampshire Supreme Court in the case of In the Matter of Cohen and Richards, 170 N.H. 78 (2019) stated in a footnote: “Any equitable division of such marital property may include the consideration of any tax consequences. See RSA 458:16-a, II(j) (the trial court may consider the ‘tax consequences for each party’ in determining the equitable division of marital property).” 170 N.H. at 91. While this comment by the court might suggest a possible future revision of the Court’s holding in Telgener limiting the circumstances when the trial court may consider the tax consequences in valuing assets, the Telgener decision contained similar language.

The Tax Consequences Conundrum In Valuing Assets in a Divorce, continued

Until the Telgener rule is changed, the present status of the law creates two standards for the valuation of assets in a divorce. During negotiations and at mediation a significant factor to be considered in the division of assets is the tax treatment those assets will likely receive when liquidated after distribution. When funds are withdrawn from IRA or 401(k) accounts, for instance, the proceeds are taxed as ordinary income and may be subject to a ten percent penalty. Stocks or other assets with a high basis will incur little or no taxes upon sale. Those with a low basis will suffer a greater tax, but at capital gains rates. This creates a hierarchy of assets in divorce negotiations, something like the following:

1. Cash;
2. Stocks and assets such as precious metals and collections with high bases.
3. Savings bonds; (the owner-transferor generally pays the tax on accrued interest up to the date of transfer). Almost as good as cash if you are the recipient.
4. Qualifying marital residence, presently subject to a \$250,000 exclusion on gain, \$500,000 if filing jointly;

5. Retirement accounts: IRA's, 401(k)s, profit-sharing plan accounts, etc.

Thus, the Telgener case created a practical dilemma in dividing assets in a divorce where each party desires the least taxable assets. These can be bargained for in negotiations, but if the matter goes to trial, the trial court is to ignore the tax treatment the assets will receive after divorce, unless immediate sale is mandated or certain to occur.

These tax consequences upon the sale of assets are even more significant in today's world, where in most cases, 401K plan accounts have replaced stock portfolios as the parties principal investments. At trial, such tax consequences, except in the special circumstances noted, are to be ignored by the Court. Cash and 401(k) accounts are to be valued equally.

Conclusion:

It is prudent to revise demands during settlement of a divorce in consideration of the consequences of the tax liability associated with the assets as at trial the court will treat cash, 401(k) accounts and all other assets as equals.

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IN THE NEWS

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- Notify the Board Office when information has changed such as address, email, etc. per administrative rule Ac 404.01
- The Board does not keep track of CPE credits; that is up to the licensee.
- Licensee must retain documentation of completing CPE for no less than four years from the date of renewal.
- Licensees must earn a minimum of 20 hours of CPE by June 30th each year.
- Licensees can find information on acceptable CPE within the Board's administrative rules located on the Board's website at <https://www.oplc.nh.gov/board-accountancy-laws-and-rules>.

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- **September 27**
Emerging Leaders' Summit – Live event
- **November 7**
NHSCPA Tax Camp with Susan Smith, CPA – Live event
- **November 16**
NHSCPA/NH Bar Tax Forum – Live event



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