

Gwen Mazzola, CPA

Partner

Fayetteville

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Gwen has over 20 years of experience in public accounting. She is a 1997 Summa Cum Laude graduate of the University of Arkansas (B.S.B.A. degree in Accounting). Gwen is the partner in charge of HoganTaylor's ERISA practice. Gwen presents at national and regional conferences on a variety of topics related to employee benefit plans. Gwen is member of both the planning committee of the annual AICPA's National Conference of Employee Benefit Plans and the Executive Committee of the AICPA's Employee Benefit Plan Audit Quality Center. Gwen has also served as a board member for the Southwest Benefits Association and the Employee Benefits Institute. Gwen is a member of the AICPA and the Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas Societies of Certified Public Accountants.

Certifications & Honors

- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)
- Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants (TXCPA), member

Professional & Civic Affiliations

- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), member
- AICPA Employee Benefits Plan National Conference, planning committee member 2013-2015, 2017-2019
- Southwest Benefits Association, Former Board member
- Employee Benefits Institute, Board Member and Regional Ambassador
- Arkansas Society of Certified Public Accountants (ASCPA), member
- Oklahoma Society of Certified Public Accountants (OSCPA), member
- BDO Employee Benefit Plan Alliance Community, Steering Committee former member
- Tulsa Employee Benefits Group, member
- Northwest Arkansas Human Resources Association, member
- Leadership Benton County, Steering Committee member, 2009 to 2017
- Leadership Benton County, Graduate, 2008

Education

- B.S.B.A. in Accounting, The University of Arkansas, Summa Cum Laude

Speaking engagements & Published Articles

- Florida Institute of CPAs MEGA Conference, “SAS 136: Forming an Opinion and Reporting on EBP Financial Statements”, June 2021
- Massachusetts Society of CPAs, May 2021
- AICPA National Conference on Employee Benefit Plans, “Audit Completion and Wrap Up” and “Hit the Jackpot: Improve Audit Efficiency with Effective Project Management”, May 2021
- AICPA Employee Benefit Plan Audit Quality Center webinar, “2020 EBPAQC Managers and Supervisors Audit Planning/Accounting and Auditing Update: Accounting, Auditing & SECURE Act Update”, April 2021
- The Plan Sponsor University, Panelist of Industry Experts, April 2021
- Featured in the Journal of Accountancy, “‘When Everything Became Very Real’”, February 2021
- AICPA National Conference on Employee Benefit Plans, “The Aftermath of CARES Act and Continuing the COVID 19 Chronicles”, November 2020
- The Plan Sponsor University, Panelist of Industry Experts, September 2020
- Texas Society of CPAs, “EBP Audit Best Practices in Project Management” and “Financial Statements – Avoiding Common Mistakes”, May 2020
- Featured in AICPA Journal of Accountancy “Pandemic considerations for EBP financial statements”, June, 2020
- Featured in AICPA Journal of Accountancy “Remote auditing comes to forefront during pandemic”, March 2020
- Featured in the Journal of Accountancy, “Remote auditing comes to forefront during pandemic”, March 2020
- AICPA Employee Benefit Plan Audit Quality Center webinar, “401(k) Basics, Part 4”, May 2020
- AICPA National Conference on Employee Benefit Plans, “Round Table on SECURE Act”, May 2020
- AICPA Employee Benefit Plan Audit Quality Center webinar, “2020 EBPAQC Managers and Supervisors Audit Planning/Accounting and Auditing Update/ Accounting, Auditing & SECURE Act Update”, April 2020
- AICPA Employee Benefit Plan Audit Quality Center webinar, “401(k) Basics, Part 2”, April 2020
- Tulsa Employee Benefits Group, “Audit Readiness – from an Auditor’s Perspective”, January 2020
- HoganTaylor Employee Benefit Plan Summit, “Fraud in Retirement Plans – Keeping Hands Out of the Cookie Jar!” August 2019
- Florida Institute of CPAs MEGA Conference, “Peer Review of EBP and the Effect of “the Bolded” and “Ask the Experts”, June 2019
- AICPA Employee Benefit Plan Audit Quality Center webinar, “401(k) Basics – Participant Data, Allocations, Payroll and Contributions Testing”, May 2019
- AICPA National Conference on Employee Benefit Plans, “Contributions, Eligibility, and Participant Data” and “Financial Reporting and Audit Wrap-Up”, May 2019
- Texas Society of CPAs, “How did Fraud Happen Under Everyone’s Nose” and “Ask the Experts”, May 2019
- AICPA Employee Benefit Plan Audit Quality Center webinar, “401(k) Basics”,

May 2019

- Tennessee Society of CPAs, "Investments Common in Employee Benefit Plans", April 2019
- The Plan Sponsor University, Panelist of Industry Experts and "What's Working and What is Not Working in EBP Plans", March 2019
- Florida Institute of CPAs MEGA Conference, "Ask the Experts" and "Auditing in a Paperless Environment and the Appropriate Use of SOC Reports", June 2018
- AICPA National Conference on Employee Benefit Plans, "Contributions and Participant Data" and "Asking for a Friend", May 2018
- McAfee & Taft, EmployerLinc18 "Preparing for 401(k) Audit Season", March 2018
- SouthWest Benefits Association, "CyberSecurity for Benefits", co-presenter, November 2017
- HoganTaylor's ERISA Seminar, "CyberSecurity", co-presenter, August 2017
- Florida Institute of CPAs MEGA Conference, "Ask the Experts", June 2017
- Florida Institute of CPAs MEGA Conference, "Show Me the Workpapers", June 2017
- AICPA National Conference on Employee Benefit Plans, "Fundamental Track – Internal Controls and SOC 1 Reports", May 2017
- AICPA National Conference on Employee Benefit Plans, "Fundamental Track – Auditing Contributions", May 2017
- SouthWest Benefits Association, "Change is in the Air: Form 5500 – It's Not Just a "Signature Page", March 3, 2017 (Dallas, Tx); April 7, 2017 (Oklahoma City, OK)
- Ultimate Software Lunch and Learn, "Definition of Compensation – A Very Common and Often Expensive Error", February 8, 2017, Little Rock, AR
- SouthWest Benefits Association, "Overview of New Accounting Standards for Benefits and Revisions to Form 5500", November 2016
- Florida Institute of CPAs MEGA Conference, "Accounting and Auditing Update", June 2016
- Florida Institute of CPAs MEGA Conference, "Audit Project Management", June 2016
- AICPA National Conference on Employee Benefit Plans, "Ask the Experts", May 2016
- AICPA National Conference on Employee Benefit Plans, "Developing a Training Program", May 2016
- AICPA National Conference on Employee Benefit Plans, "Initial Audit Considerations", May 2016
- SouthWest Benefits Association, "Current Issues in Non Profit, Higher Education and Governmental Retirement Plans", November 2015
- AICPA National Conference on Employee Benefit Plans, "Audit Project Management", "Definition of Compensation" and "Ask the Experts", May 2015
- McAfee & Taft webinar, "DOL Audit Quality Study", April 2015
- Employee Benefit Plan Compliance Update, 2014, "Definition of Compensation", Northwest Arkansas Human Resources Association and Tulsa Employee Benefit Group, presenter
- AICPA National Conference on Employee Benefit Plans, "Audit Project Management", "Definition of Compensation" and "Ask the Experts", May 2014
- Oklahoma Society of Human Resource Management's State Conference, "Common Errors and How to Avoid Them: Your Fiduciary Duties in Relation to Employee Benefit Plans", May 2014

- Southwest Benefits Association, "Preparing for a DOL Audit: What Plan Administrators Need to Know", Oklahoma City, March 2014,
- Employee Benefit Plan Compliance Update, 2013, "Fiduciary Responsibilities" Northwest Arkansas Human Resources Association and Tulsa Employee Benefit Group, presenter
- Employee Benefit Plan Compliance Update, 2012, Northwest Arkansas Human Resources Association and Tulsa Employee Benefit Group, presenter
- Presenter of "Fiduciary Responsibilities," Arkansas State Human Resources Management Conference, 2011
- Employee Benefit Plan Compliance Seminar, 2010 and 2011, Oklahoma State Council for Human Resource Management, Q&A Expert Panel
- Employee Benefit Plan Compliance Seminar, 2011, Northwest Arkansas Human Resources Association, Q&A Expert Panel