

Member Spotlight – Joseph D. Brophy, CPA

by Heather Murphy-Walker, Manager – AICPA Tax Practice & Ethics
Published March 25, 2016



Joseph D. Brophy, MBA, CPA, CVA, ABV, CM&AA may have a lot of letters behind his name, but he considers himself a bean counter like any other accountant. A graduate from the University of North Texas with a bachelor's degree in Accounting as well as an MBA, he is currently a Shareholder at [Joseph D. Brophy, CPA, PC](#) in Dallas, Texas.

Joe is a current member of the AICPA Tax Practice & Procedures Committee and previous member of the AICPA IRS Advocacy and Relations Committee. He has been a part of the Texas Society of CPAs in many roles, including chair of the Relations with IRS Committee, helping to form the Tax Policy Committee, and serving on the Board of Directors, the Dallas Estate Planning Council, and many more.

I spoke with Joe and talked about his experience, work, and how he takes pride in giving back to the profession.

What drove you to the CPA profession and then ultimately to start your own practice?

I am one of eight kids. Four of us went into the finance profession to follow in our father's footsteps. He was once the head of internal audit for US Steel. Eventually, he decided to open his own practice and I worked with him during college to get some real-life experience. You could say there is some CPA in the DNA. After graduation, I became an instructor at the University of Texas, remaining there until 1976. After that, I worked as an investor and entrepreneur, but by 1985, I decided it was time for a change and opened up my practice here in Dallas.

What is your specialty in the tax world and what do you enjoy most?

I spend most of my time with clients in estate-related planning but I also do a lot of work on tax controversy. I have quite a few cases where large tax payers haven't paid taxes in several years. I work to get them into compliance. There's a lot of referral work for this issue. One example is a client who was out of compliance in 1985 for payroll tax and I helped him get back into it. I later helped him buy his first profitable company, which he sold for \$2 billion in 2002.

What accomplishments are you most proud of?

Participating with the dedicated members and staff of the AICPA has truly been the highlight of my professional career. Making a contribution to the Tax Committees along the way allowed me great satisfaction by helping other CPAs around the country do the best job possible in a world where change is constant. The Tax Committees are at the very door of Congress receiving vast amounts of information and relaying it to members in a timely manner, while suggesting best practices. One standout moment is when I received an IRS Excellence in Partnering Award in 2009 from the IRS Small Business & Self-Employed Division. The IRS looked at the work I had done with the Texas Society of CPAs to help with IRS relations. You know, we are all just trying to get the work done in the best way.

What is your favorite hobby when not working? What do you do for fun?

I enjoy travel and the time it allows me to catch up with friends and family. I have taken over 20 cruises and visited Ireland, Scotland, Scandinavia, Europe, South America, Russia, and look forward to New Zealand later this year or next.

Last but not least, how would you describe yourself and why?

I see myself as a dedicated bean counter. It is my job to develop constructive approaches to professional issues while enjoying life on the high seas.