



Journal of the CPA Practitioner

INSIDE

<i>President's Letter</i>	1
<i>Letter from the Editor</i>	3
<i>Chapter Updates</i>	3
<i>Mandatory Disclosure of Audit Engagement Partner</i>	4—8
<i>Corporate Convertible Bonds In a Crummey Trust</i>	9—11
<i>Committee Updates</i>	12
<i>Welcome New Members</i>	13

Upcoming Meetings:

Westchester/Rockland

Friday, July 13, 2018, 8 AM—12 PM Review, Compilation and Preparation Engagement Update 4 CPE/ A&A, Tarrytown, NY

Monday, July 16, 2018 8 AM to 10 AM, Criminal Tax Investigations: What To Do When The Special Agents Come Knocking 2 CPE/Tax, Tarrytown, NY

Florida

Thursday, July 12, 2018 8AM—10:30AM, The Consolidation Process, 2 CPE/A&A

Remember to check out our [Members Benefits](http://go.nccpap.org) on go.nccpap.org

President's Letter



Dear Colleagues:

Wow!!! We have survived yet another tax season. We have had some time to catch up with the things that tend to take a backseat—family, friends, vacations, our golf games, continuing education.

Now, we need to use the balance of the summer for areas to help improve our practices. Thanks to Congress and their passing of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017, we certainly have our work cut out for us as well as having ample opportunities to aid our clients with high-level tax planning. We have new phrases added to our “vocabulary” such as 199A, Qualified Business Income (QBI) & Qualified Business Loss (QBL). Be sure to check with your Chapter for information on when these and other topics will be discussed.

We've been waiting since the Bill was passed to get guidance from the IRS. At the end of June, the IRS finally released the draft of the new 1040 and its' many supporting schedules. There is a 30-day comment period and all are encouraged to submit feedback to the IRS via email to WI.1040.Comments@irs.gov. And if a new 1040 isn't enough, there is also a new draft for Form W-4 for 2019. This is also open for comments.

I hope that all are able to enjoy their summer while taking time to stay current on all of the changes that will affect our clients as well as our own businesses.

Enough about taxes – this is the summer!!!!

There is still time to register for the National Conference being held in Golden, CO from August 8-10. This is a great opportunity to get away from the office, take a vacation in the beautiful Denver area, and learn a little more about how your National Board operates.

I hope to see many of you in Golden in August!!!

Stephen F. Mankowski, CPA

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Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers:

Welcome to the new Journal of the CPA Practitioner!

After a few difficult years, we are getting back on track. We will now be publishing at a minimum of four times a year. We hope to publish shortly after each quarterly meeting and include information from those meetings.

We look forward to getting your input. If you have an idea for an article, please contact me so we can discuss your proposal. We love to have articles that come from our members. If you have an idea but you are not a 'writer', please contact me anyway; maybe I can get another member to run with your idea.

Article ideas can crop up from many places. Often you may have an unusual question or situation you are dealing with for a client. You are doing the research for your client anyway; why not turn it into an article. Sometimes I get ideas from listening to the radio or watching TV. I was troubled about the tax consequences of donating your car to a charity and getting a vacation voucher in return, based on a radio commercial. It became an article. Right now, I am questioning a comment by a game show host about the tax consequence (or lack thereof) of winning a prize on a TV game show. Hopefully, that will turn into an article too.

I'm looking forward to your submissions to appear in future issues.

Frimette

Chapter Update from Frank Sands, President, Texas (TACPA) Chapter, NCCPAP

TACPA is instituting webinars. We have tested the technology and are working on one hour content. We hope to have a program available in July.

The Texas State Board of Public Accountancy is up for sunset review. This process is used to determine the necessity of the Board and its operational effectiveness. We have been asked to provide input to the State Sunset Review committee. We sent our input in the beginning of June.

Chapter Update from Mark A. Stewart Jr., CPA – President, Westchester/Rockland Chapter, NCCPAP

Our chapter has been notified that Rex Logemann, who has presented our individual tax update for many years, has entered into semi-retirement. We thank him for his years of wonderful presentations to our chapter. His replacement this year will be Mark Merric, who has often co-presented with Rex across the country and teaches at the same college Rex does. He comes with the highest stamp of approval from Rex.

We are now planning our NY/NJ/CT Tri-State tax update. We have reached out to several of our speakers from this past year. They are well aware and well versed as to the "nonconformity" attempts with the federal tax reform bill of these states and promise to bring us the latest update on these matters in the fall.

In May, Andrea Parness of the Nassau/Suffolk chapter and I participated with members of Intuit and CPAs from across the country in visiting with legislators in Washington. Among the highlights included visits with the head of the Chamber of Commerce, the Director of the Wage and Investment Division at the IRS, and attendance and participation at CERCA. CERCA provides a forum and a liaison point between the IRS and industry as well as other key stakeholders, the goal of which is to assist in building electronic filing and advanced electronic tax administration both now and in the future.

MANDATORY DISCLOSURE OF AUDIT ENGAGEMENT PARTNER

The PCAOB adopted a new rule in December 2015, which the SEC approved soon after, that requires accounting firms to disclose the name of the engagement partner as well as other accounting firms that participated in the audit of an issuer. While recognizing that an audit is often a team effort with more than one partner involved, the PCAOB notes that the engagement partner, defined as the “member of the engagement team with primary responsibility for the audit,” plays “a unique and critical role in the audit” (PCAOB 2015). Hence, the PCAOB deems it important for investors and other financial statement users to be informed about the leading partner of the engagement team. Specifically, the new rule, *Improving the transparency of audits: Rules to require disclosure of certain audit participants on a new PCAOB form and related amendments to auditing standards*, requires the disclosure of (1) the name of the engagement partner, (2) the name, location, and extent of participation of each other accounting firm participating in the audit whose work constituted at least 5% of the total audit hours, and (3) the number and aggregate extent of participation of all other accounting firms participating in the audit whose individual participation was less than 5% of total audit hours. Audit firms are to file the disclosure in a new form (Form AP, Auditor Reporting of Certain Audit Participants) for each issuer audit. The information will be made available from the PCAOB’s searchable database. The timing for filing Form AP should be within 35 days from filing the auditor’s report with the SEC. In the same ruling, the PCAOB also amends AS 3101 (currently AU sec. 508) to permit voluntary disclosure of the engagement partner and other accounting firms in the auditor’s report. The disclosure of engagement partner is required for auditors’ reports issued on or after January 31 of 2017, while the other accounting firms’ disclosure requirement takes effect on a later date, June 30 of 2017, to allow time for information gathering.

While stressing the need for mandatory disclosure of audit engagement partners, the PCAOB carefully weighed the benefits and costs of the disclosure. This article summarizes the PCAOB’s justification for the new requirement and evaluates the impact in terms of the costs and benefits of the new requirement to the accounting profession. Though accounting firms and their partners would assume the obvious and direct impact of the new disclosure requirement, audit committees and internal auditors should also be aware of the new disclosure requirement in terms of its legal and economic implications and how it can affect their decisions in hiring and compensating independent auditors.

Justification for the Mandatory Disclosure

High quality audit of financial information is proven effective in mitigating the information asymmetry between investors and management concerning company performance (Clinch, Stokes, and Zhu 2012). Investors and other financial statement users, however, are generally not in a position to discern the quality of the audit. The PCAOB and proponents of the mandatory disclosure requirement argue from a social psychology perspective that the disclosure of lead engagement partners’ names would make their accountability more salient, thus strengthening auditor independence and audit quality (PCAOB 2013). “Users of financial statements could seek to reduce the degree of information asymmetry between them and management by gathering information about the skills, expertise, and independence of the engagement partner and firms that participate in the audit” (PCAOB 2015).

In practice, accountability measures exist precisely to prevent the client from influencing the auditor. Engagement partner identification is required by the majority of the largest capital markets, including the EU. Stakeholders and practitioners “have also suggested that the simple act of naming the engagement partner will increase the engagement partner’s sense of accountability,” and “increased accountability would lead to changes in behavior that would enhance audit quality” (PCAOB 2015). Recent research also shows support for the disclosure of the lead partner as an effective accountability measure. For instance, Lambert, Luippold, and Stefaniak (2012) propose that audit partner name disclosure may shift partners’ incentive structures, which may affect audit partner independence and audit quality positively. Carcello and Li (2013) find the disclosure requirement in the U.K. is associated with a significant decline in abnormal accruals. Gul, Wu, and Yang (2013) also found evidence that audit quality varies with the individual Chinese partner, which supports the idea of the individual partner’s name providing value to the market. Overall, evidence from both research and practice indicates that the partner disclosure requirement has a potential effect on auditor’s accountability and audit quality, which is precisely why auditor partner disclosure as an accountability measure has been put into place.

Benefits of Disclosure

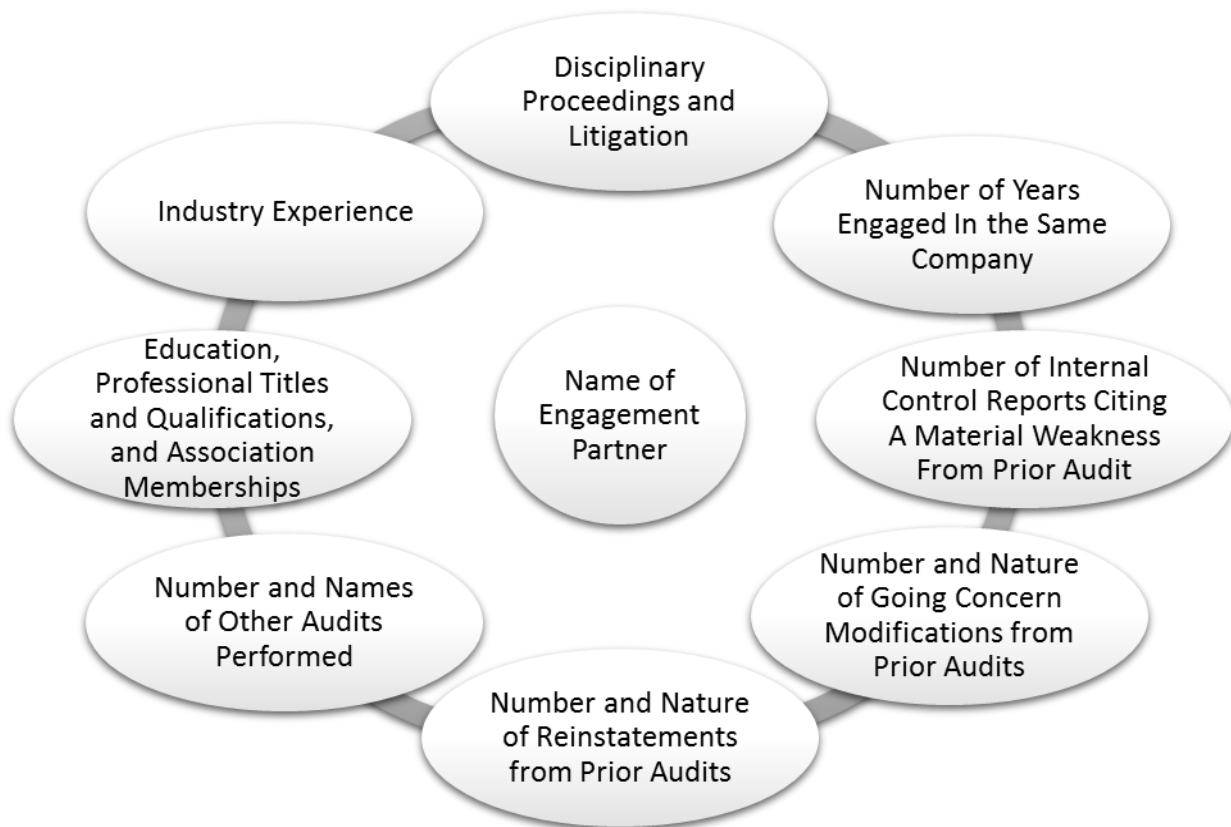
Although the disclosure of the name of the engagement partner and other participating accounting firms might initially provide limited information, experience from other countries suggests that disclosures will enable databases to be developed over time (PCAOB 2015). Figures 1 and 2 list the additional data points and databases that may develop from the disclosure of the name of the engagement partner and other accounting firms that participate in the audit engagement as suggested by the PCAOB (2015). In particular, the disclosure itself, along with the additional databases developed, enhance the transparency and the accountability of an audit engagement. (continued next page)

MANDATORY DISCLOSURE OF AUDIT ENGAGEMENT PARTNER *(continued)*

As a summary of its benefits suggested by the PCAOB, the new disclosure rule:

- adds to the mix of information used by investors and financial statement users to evaluate the engagement partner and the audit quality,
- allows information to be accumulated into databases, which can be aggregated and analyzed in conjunction with other publicly available information to gain insight into individual audits,
- allows financial statement users to understand how much of the audit was performed by the firm issuing the report and how much of the audit was performed by other accounting firms,
- allows investors to research whether engagement partners have been sanctioned by the PCAOB or SEC or associated with adverse audit outcomes that could be attributed to deficiencies in their audit work, and
- increases the incentives or reputational risk for the partners and accounting firms to deliver high quality audits (PCAOB 2015).

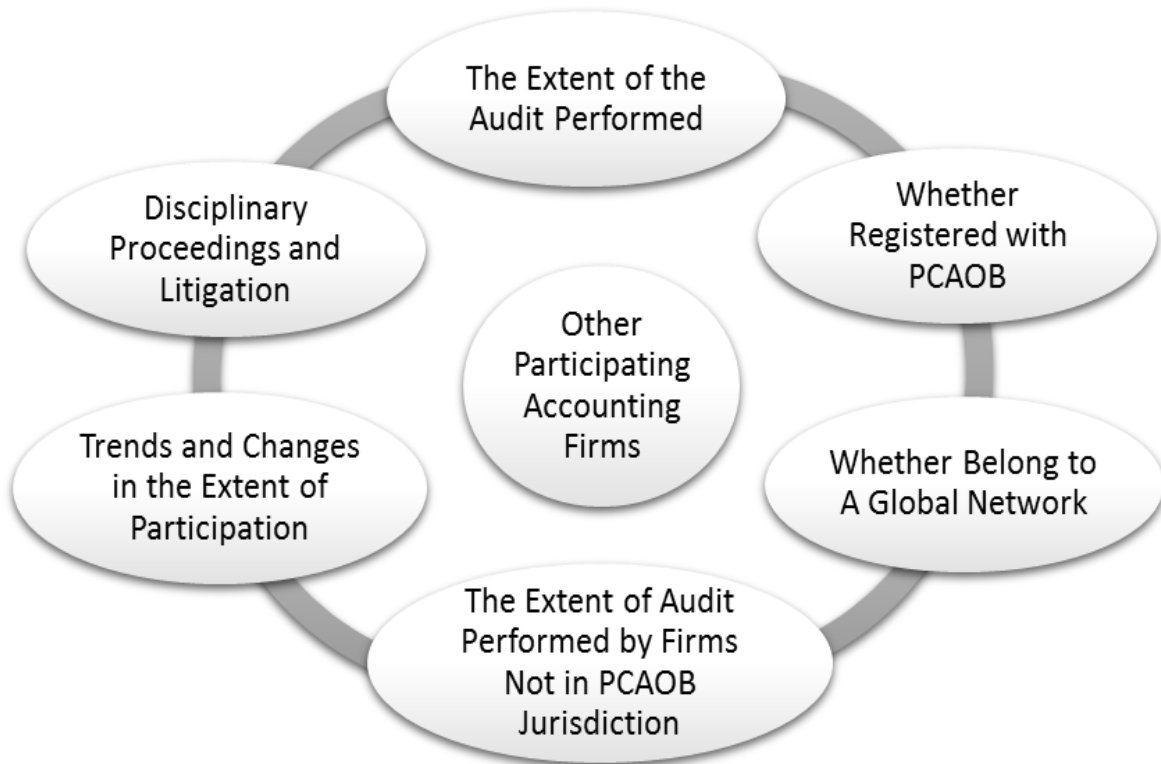
Figure 1 Additional Data Points to Be Developed from the Engagement Partner Disclosure



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MANDATORY DISCLOSURE OF AUDIT ENGAGEMENT PARTNER (continued)

Figure 2 Additional Data Points to Be Developed from the Other Participating Firms Disclosure



Costs and Concerns of Disclosure

Acknowledging the legal and practical issues that may arise from the mandatory disclosure, the PCAOB carefully scrutinized the concerns voiced by constituent commenters regarding the possible consequences and incremental costs. Other than the direct costs to gather, compile, and file the required information under Form AP, the new requirement may result in indirect costs and unintended consequences of concern. Figure 3 summarizes the indirect costs and possible consequences as well as the PCAOB’s rationale for why these costs do not override the intended benefits of the new standard.

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AT OUR SPRING QUARTERLY MEETING IN DC



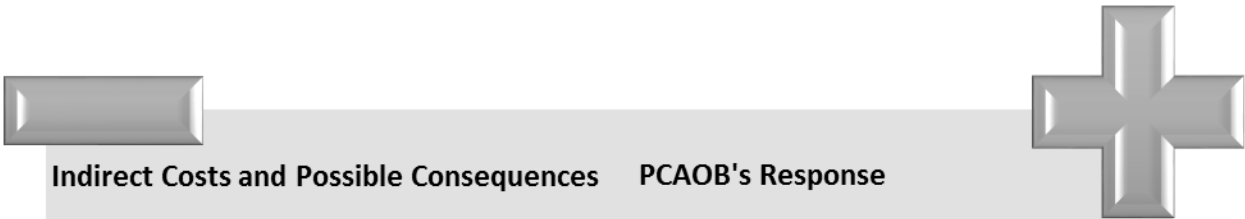
At the IRS with Martha Tobias, National Public Liaison, May 10. Left to right: Sanford Zinman, Martha Tobias, Stephen Mankowski, Mark A. Stewart Jr.



NCCPAP at IRS w David J. Kautter, Acting Commissioner, May 10. From left to right: Neil A.J. Sullivan, Acting Commissioner Kautter, Stephen F. Mankowski, Sanford E. Zinman, Mark A. Stewart Jr.

MANDATORY DISCLOSURE OF AUDIT ENGAGEMENT PARTNER *(continued)*

Figure 3 Indirect Costs and Possible Consequences



Indirect Costs and Possible Consequences	PCAOB's Response
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The increased reputational risk associated with mandatory disclosure can lead to overauditing and increased audit fees. • Differential demand based on reputation can be costly to the accounting profession when the reputation is undeserved. • Mandatory disclosure can lead to conservatism and decreases in the welfare of engagement partners and accounting firms. • The increased reputational risk can lead accounting firms to avoid complex and risky audits and become risk averse. • Audit committees may hire auditors based on reputation more than qualification leading to mismatch of skills. • The disclosure can create a permanent structural bias against smaller, less-known firms and partners. • Engagement partner disclosure can lead to potential liability consequences. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Competitive pressures to reduce audit costs should provide counterincentives. • Financial market should be discerning and respond to the factual information about auditor performance. • Increased conservatism at large accounting firms may be socially optimal in limiting damages to investors. • The disincentive to perform risky audits may enhance auditors' gatekeeping function. • Reputable engagement partners would avoid engagement that they are not qualified for to maintain their status. • The disclosure can promote competition based on audit quality instead of general firm reputation. • Engagement partner is not named in the SEC registration statement, thus the disclosure should not raise liability concerns under the Security Act.

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MANDATORY DISCLOSURE OF AUDIT ENGAGEMENT PARTNER (*continued*)

While the PCAOB claims that competitive pressures should serve as counterincentives to prevent an increase in audit fees due to the increased risk to the audit partner (resulting in increased audit hours), the PCAOB seems to be looking at this from an individual firm perspective. For if the entirety of the audit firms are increasing audit hours and fees to compensate for the increased risk, it is difficult to foresee how market prices will not increase on the whole. Fortunately, this is an empirical question, and thus will provide fertile ground for researchers in the future.

Further, the PCAOB's responses to some of the arguments against the standard appear to be wishful thinking. For instance, the dismissal of concerns about increased liability by saying that engagement partner information is not included in SEC documents seems far-fetched. Are plaintiffs only allowed to use SEC documents when bringing suit against audit firms? Will their lawyers not search the PCAOB database to find the name of the engagement partner?

The PCAOB's assertion that accounting conservatism may be "socially optimal" is at direct odds with the FASB (2010), who does not include conservatism as one of its qualitative characteristics because it believes that conservatism is biased and compromises neutrality. Further, it is not clear that conservatism is beneficial and should be a desired outcome, as research is mixed on the potential benefits (Ruch and Taylor 2015).

Finally, the PCAOB's responses to concerns about the standard are focused around the engagement partner disclosure, which is but one piece (albeit the primary focus) of the standard. Perhaps this is because the concerns were addressing this piece, but there are also concerns about the parts of the standard. For instance, are firms that are listed as performing more than 5% of the audit hours also subject to increased liability? Will this lead to firms managing their hours to stay below the 5% threshold? Again, this is an area that will certainly receive its due attention from the research community.

Conclusion

The new PCAOB disclosure rule represents an effort by the accounting profession to enhance the information provided for investors to evaluate the audit quality and the reliability of the financial statements. The new rule is not designed to impose a higher threshold or additional burdens on the accounting profession to achieve an effective audit. It, instead, provides more disclosure about the engagement partners so that their audit effectiveness can be assessed, their audit quality recognized, and their reputation built up. The new rule may also create additional incentives for the audit committees to engage auditors and accounting firms with good reputation, expecting that a quality audit and reliable financial statements can lead to lower cost of capital.

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MARK ROSS, PHD, CPA

Dr. Ross' is an associate professor in accounting at Western Kentucky University. His teaching interests are in the financial accounting area, having taught the undergraduate principles, intermediates and advanced accounting courses, as well as the graduate financial course.

Corporate Convertible Bonds in a Crummey Trust

Background: Crummey Trust

Under a Crummey Trust (*Crummey v. Commissioner*, 1968) a grantor may gift \$15,000 (currently the annual gift exclusion) to a beneficiary through an irrevocable living trust. Normally, such living trusts do not qualify for the gift exclusion because the beneficiary only has a future interest, not a present interest. However, the court ruled that when the beneficiary has a right to withdraw the gift from the trust, even if that right exists for only a short window, it is deemed a present interest that falls under the gift exclusion (Grassi, 2004). *Crummey* is considered the single most important tax ruling for estate planners (Klooster and Selinger, 2010).

Crummey is a very powerful tool for estate planning that has evolved perhaps beyond the intention of the court. It relies on the psychological principle that the best predictor of future behavior is past behavior. Once the beneficiaries demonstrate that they did not exercise the right of withdrawal from the trust during the first year's window, chances are they will not exercise the same right in future years for future gifts. This allows the grantor to repeat a Crummey Trust gift year after year. The only requirement is that for each gift that there be a one-time window for the beneficiary to withdraw *that year's* gift from the trust. In the worst-case scenario, a non-cooperative beneficiary can withdraw only the most recent gift during its one-time window. There should be no explicit understanding between the grantor and the beneficiary concerning non-exercise of withdrawal rights (Grassi).

Scenario and Strategy

Step 1. The corporation issues a bond to the owner-grantor for \$15,000 cash

Grantor owns a corporation with a valuation of \$1,000,000 with 1,000 shares outstanding. The owner then lends the corporation \$15,000, and in exchange the corporation issues a 60-year bond with a face value of \$15,000. The loan pays no interest, but in lieu of interest the bond is convertible into 15 shares in the corporation (slightly less than 1.5% after dilution). Furthermore, the issuer-corporation can call back the bond at any time, thus forcing the beneficiary to accept cash or exercise the conversion option (See figures 1 and 2).

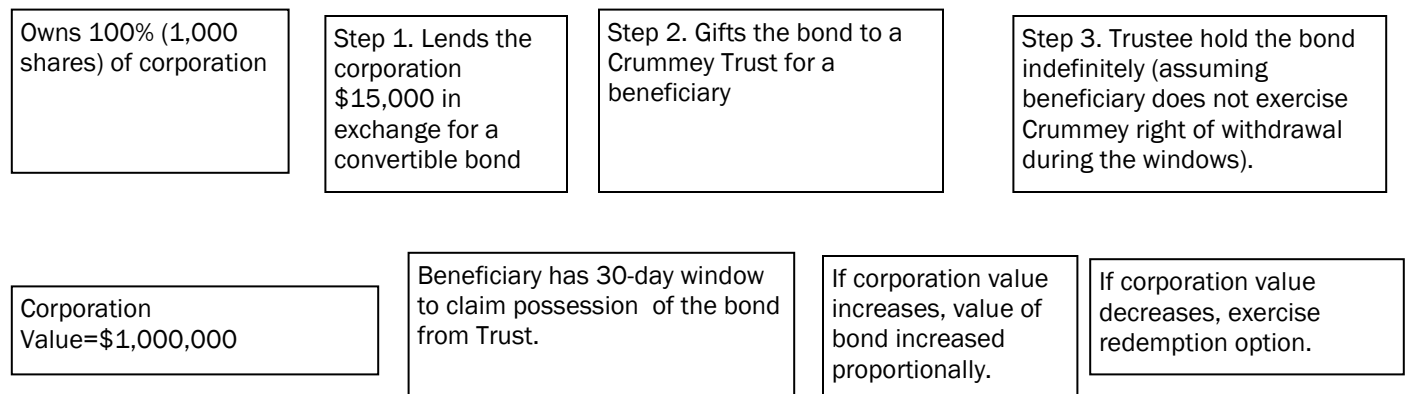
Step 2. Grantor gifts the bond into a trust for a beneficiary

The grantor now gifts the bond to a Crummey Trust for a beneficiary. The key feature of Crummey is that there be a window (30-day windows are acceptable; Wood, 2011) during which the beneficiary may obtain possession of the bond. This article assumes that the beneficiary will not exercise the right of possession. If the exercise-window passes without and the trustee has not taken possession, the bond is now permanently under the control of the trustee. The trustee should be someone other than the grantor or beneficiary.

Step 3. The trustee holds the bond in the trust indefinitely

Should the business prosper, for example, by growing in value by 15% annually for two decades, the convertible feature of the bond will be worth nearly \$250,000. If on the other hand the business languishes, the trustee can exercise the redemption option and reclaim the \$15,000 principal for the beneficiary's trust.

Figure 1. Description of Strategy



(continued next page)

Corporate Convertible Bonds in a Crummey Trust (continued)

Figure 2. Convertible Bond, Face Value \$15,000. Due in 60 years.

<p>Issuer-corporation benefits and rights</p> <p>(1) No interest payments</p> <p>(2) Callable at any time for cash or stock with the choice made by lender</p>	<p>Offsetting lender-trustee-beneficiary beneficiary benefits and rights</p> <p>(1) Convertible into 15 shares of stock</p> <p>(2) Redeemable at any time for cash</p>
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Benefits

The benefit of a convertible bond is that it maximizes the expected value of the gift by providing it with unlimited upside and limited downside. By placing the convertible bond within a Crummey Trust, the grantor retains control of the bonds once the thirty-day window passes. Gifting the bond directly to the beneficiary will accomplish the same goal. However, the grantor runs the risk that the beneficiary will actually exercise the conversion option. This can create administrative and strategic headaches for running the business, not to mention personal considerations of irresponsible spending. By placing the bond in the Trust, the grantor controls if and when to exercise the conversion option. In actuality, the option only needs to be exercised when the business is sold. In such a scenario, the trustee has a fiduciary responsibility to exercise the convertibility option if it will lead to a value exceeding the bond's face value.

An interesting question is what happens if the company is sold and the trust records significant capital gains due to the low basis of the bond compared to the appreciated value of the company. A Crummey Trust would normally be considered a separate taxpayer and would therefore pay its own capital gains taxes (Grassi 2001). An alternative would be to structure the trust as an intentionally defective grantor trust (IDGT) under §§ 671-677. In this case the grantor would pay the income taxes on the gains. This is a potentially powerful tool that can make our strategy and even more effective. We will explore the income-tax status of the trust in further detail in a subsequent article.

Potential IRS Challenge

A potential IRS challenge is that the issuance of the convertible bond for \$15,000 is not an "arm's length transaction" and in fact the bond is worth more than \$15,000, due to the convertibility feature. Convertible bonds are essentially two instruments combined in one: (1) a bond and (2) a stock option. For financial accounting purposes, it is necessary to separately estimate the value of each component. If, to change the example, the bond would have been convertible into 16 shares (i.e. with a valuation of \$16,000 at the time of contribution to the trust), the IRS would certainly challenge the valuation as being worth \$16,000, and not fully subject to the gift exclusion.

In our scenario, the value of the option when the bond is issued is not "in the money", so the burden should be subject to the gift exclusion. on the IRS to establish that the bond is worth more than \$15,000. However, even in the current scenario, the IRS might argue that the convertible bond is worth more than \$15,000 upon issuance, as it essentially provides unlimited upside with limited or no downside.

Potential Defense to IRS Challenge

A potential defense that the bond indeed represents an "arm's length transaction" is that the issuer receives certain rights, benefits, and consideration in lieu of the convertibility option. The issuer pays no interest, and so the convertibility option can be viewed as consideration in lieu of interest. As such, the convertibility option does not represent an additional source of value above the face value.

Another defense is that the issuer has an additional right and benefit beyond the zero interest loan. In figure 2, we structured the bond so that the issuer can call the bond at any time. This feature essentially reduces the "arm's length" value of the bond to the holder, since it allows the right to force the bondholder at any time to either accept cash or stock, at the choice of the bondholder. This feature serves to reduce the "arm's length" option-value of the convertibility feature. The corporation can limit the upside at any time by forcing the bondholder to take cash or commit to converting to stock.

(continued next page)

Corporate Convertible Bonds in a Crummey Trust (continued)

Summary, Ethical, and Legal Considerations

The article described a strategy that leverages the benefits of a Crummey Trust in passing wealth and a family business from one generation to the next. A Crummey Trust is a way to benefit from the gift-tax exemption without actually transferring control to the beneficiary. Our strategy, using a convertible bond in a family business, allows the grantor-owner of a family business to gift an indirect ownership interest in the family business. However, instead of gifting stock, the corporation issues a convertible bond which has all the upside of stock with limited downside.

Furthermore, the author views the objective of estate tax planning primarily to facilitate the orderly transfer of assets between generations, rather than to save on taxes (Fischer and Friedman, 2017). Justice Learned Hand famously stated:

"Anyone may arrange his affairs so that his taxes shall be as low as possible; he is not bound to choose that pattern which best pays the treasury. There is not even a patriotic duty to increase one's taxes. Over and over again the Courts have said that there is nothing sinister in so arranging affairs as to keep taxes as low as possible. Everyone does it, rich and poor alike and all do right, for nobody owes any public duty to pay more than the law demands." *Helvering v. Gregory* (1935)

Fischer and Friedman (2017) demonstrate that Justice Hand's view should not necessarily apply to large corporations. However, the focus of this article is on small-to-medium businesses, where the costs of disruption due to estate taxes are real social costs. In my opinion, if Hand's maxim applies to any form of taxes, it is to estate taxes.

Our strategy has not been tested in practice and so is open to challenge by the IRS. However, this article has attempted to demonstrate that the strategy has economic substance and is structured as an "arm's length transaction. The benefits of the strategy go beyond mere tax savings, and as such the strategy does not fall under the "sham in substance" doctrine (Pfeifer and Yoon, 2016). Practitioners should exercise their own professional judgement as to whether this strategy crosses any ethical lines. Furthermore, any complex legal strategy should be implemented with legal counsel (Reimer and Heimos, 2011).

A future article will explore how the strategy can become even more effective by structuring it as an intentionally defective grantor trust (IDGT) under §§ 671-677. In this case the grantor would pay the income taxes on the gains. This is a potentially powerful tool that can make our strategy and even more effective, particularly if the company is sold.

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ISSUES COMMITTEE NEWS UPDATE

The comment period for the combined PROPOSED STATEMENTS ON AUDITING STANDARDS—AUDITOR REPORTING and PROPOSED AMENDMENTS— ADDRESSING DISCLOSURES IN THE AUDIT OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ended on May 15, 2018.

Comment Letters are currently being evaluated by the AICPA. These amendments, if adopted as is, will change the structure of the auditor's report as we currently know it. The planned effective dates for these amendments would encompass audits of financial statements for periods ending on or after June 15, 2019.

Highlights of the changes are as follows:

- Requires the "Opinion" section to be presented first in the auditor's report, followed by the "Basis for Opinion" section, unless law or regulation prescribe otherwise.
- Requires the "Basis for Opinion" section of the auditor's report to include an affirmative statement about the auditor's independence and fulfillment of the auditor's other ethical responsibilities in accordance with relevant ethical requirements relating to the audit.
- Expands the description of the responsibilities of management for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements and includes a requirement to identify those responsible for the oversight of the financial reporting process when those responsible for such oversight differ from those responsible for the preparation of the financial statements.
- Expands the description of the responsibilities of the auditor and key features of an audit.

If and when these standards become final, the Issues Committee will address these changes at the following quarterly meeting. Mark A. Stewart Jr., CPA, National Chair, Issues Committee, mstewart@feldsteinandstewart.com

TAX COMMITTEE NEWS UPDATE

The tax committee has started up our activities for the 2018 year. We have two main goals for the year:

1. Assist the elected representatives with advice about tax law issues when questions and issues come to them.
2. Prepare our Congressional and IRS agendas for our annual meetings in Washington DC in May 2019.

Our members were well received last month at the IRS and on Capitol Hill and we will continue to foster our relationships with our elected members of Congress and Senators.

The most important component to this relationship relates to our Congressional agenda. I am encouraging all members to consider issues that arise in our practices which are in obvious need of improvement or correction. Please send your issues to the Tax Committee. No issue is insignificant. This is a great time to start putting thoughts together as we are working on client extensions and planning for the upcoming tax season.

Some issues which may become important relate to:

1. Sales Tax Issues
2. Cryptocurrency
3. Identity Theft
4. IRS Reform.

Please send us your thoughts. Sanford Zinman, CPA, National Chair, Tax Committee, sandy@zinmantax.com

BYLAWS COMMITTEE NEWS UPDATE

As approved by the membership last year, NCCPAP members will be voting electronically with this coming election. We will keep you up to date in the next few months as all the pieces are put into place for our new voting online. Mark A. Stewart Jr., National VP, Bylaws Committee

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE NEWS UPDATE

Our public relations firm, Markitects, has been issuing bi-monthly press releases and membership releases. These deal with a variety of topics from NCCPAP's national involvement with IRSAC and NPL to updates in the member benefits program and the accomplishments of members.

Also, I want to mention again that Markitects would like to know what you have been up to lately. They would like to publicize special achievements by chapters and individual members. Please submit a very brief description by clicking on the [Submit an Achievement](#) button either right here or on the main page of the go.nccpap.org site. Mary Duff, National Chair, Public Relations Committee

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Vinod George Abraham, CPA Syosset, NY
 Roman A. Bellusci, CPA Floral Park, NY
 Patricia Bentley, CFE, Tamarac, FL
 Jacob Bezner, CPA Dallas, TX
 Elizabeth A. Boonin, CPA Smithtown, NY
 Thomas Brown, CPA, PC Holbrook, NY
 Steven C. Bromberg, CPA Mount Kisco, NY
 Bancroft Burke, CPA Dix Hills, NY
 Anthony J. Cassar Melville, NY
 Helene Chu ,CPA Lindenhurst, NY
 Creative Plan Designs, Ltd. East Meadow, NY
 DGM CPA PC Fresh Meadows, NY
 Hank Federman, CPA Melville, NY
 Russell A. Glick CPA LLC Great Neck, NY
 Eric W. Goldstein, CPA Port Washington, NY
 Stewart Gubenko, CPA, Rockville Centre, NY
 Arthur W. Harris, CPA, Houston, TX
 Billy Albert Hullum, CPA Van, TX
 Michael J. Ippoliti, CPA Riverdale, NJ
 Michael Katz, CPA Bethpage, NY
 Lalit Khanna, CPA Hicksville, NY
 Steve Langenthal, CPA Syosset, NY
 Manish Majithia, CPA Garden City, NY
 Kenneth Meaders, CPA Dallas, TX
 Bruce H. Mottel, CPA Jericho, NY
 Lawrence Offsey, CPA Deer Park, NY
 Anthony Petrunti, CPA Northport, NY
 Robert Purnell, CPA Houston, TX
 Larry Raxenberg, CPA Jericho, NY
 Alfredo Robledo, CPA Grapevine, TX
 State Tax Audit Representation, Inc. Uniondale, NY
 Peter C. Taafe, CPA Houston, TX
 Jason H Wang CPA Flushing, NY
 WATS CPA Delray Beach FL
 Allen Weinstein, CPA Jericho, NY
 YYL CPA P.C. Great Neck, NY

Thank you to all our new members and thank you to all our members who renewed their dues for May 2018 through April 2019. We appreciate your commitment to NCCPAP.

Spread the news to your friends and colleagues—Our 40th Anniversary Special for new members is \$125 for the first year. Call the National office at (516) 333-8282 to become a member at this special rate.



National Conference of CPA Practitioners, Inc.

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Next Quarterly Conference

2018 Summer Conference

Golden, CO

August 8, 9, & 10, 2018

The Golden Hotel

2nd Annual Susan Gallo Blood Drive

We will be honoring and remembering the late Susan Gallo, CPA, and NCCPAP member at the 2nd Annual Blood Drive to be held on Saturday, July 14. If you live in the Long Island area, please join us in honoring Susan's life by giving blood in her memory and saving the lives of others. For more information on or to schedule an appointment, [click here](#).