

Sean M. Connolly, CPA, MBA

Certified public accountant with over a decade of Big 4 experience managing a variety of public and private clients across industries. Skills include audit, business processes and internal controls, general computer controls and application controls, enterprise risk assessment, current state assessment, future state design and implementation, business impact assessment, governance risk and compliance implementation and regulatory agreed-upon procedures.

Credentials & Expertise

Expertise

- ◆ Sarbanes-Oxley, U.S. GAAP and SEC
- ◆ Business and Audit Risk Assessment
- ◆ Internal Controls
- ◆ Initial Public Offering Readiness
- ◆ Regulatory Compliance
- ◆ Project Management
- ◆ Financial/Accounting Due Diligence

Achievements

- ◆ Managed and controlled the organization's financial position to deploy scarce resources to maximize impact for strategic imperatives. Closed the fiscal year months earlier than prior history. Prepared financial statements and issued the annual financial statement audit early, with zero internal control deficiencies for the first time ever and with only minimal audit adjustments. Reinstated deposit and loan trust (D&L) financial statement reviews for the first time in 13 years, with no auditor findings.
- ◆ Collaborated with a variety of clients across industries including: Fortune 100 athletic apparel and gear maker, a multi-billion dollar publicly-traded aerospace and defense contractor, a Fortune 1000 professional employer organization and insurance provider, a Fortune Global 500 electronics producer, a Fortune 100 oil and gas producer, a Fortune 500 label maker, and a multi-billion dollar health maintenance organization.
- ◆ Twice decorated for superior leadership and professional achievement in combat.

Industries

- ◆ Technology & Electronics
- ◆ Oil & Gas
- ◆ Manufacturing
- ◆ Restaurants
- ◆ Retail & Fashion Products
- ◆ Hospitality & Entertainment
- ◆ Healthcare
- ◆ Aerospace & Defense

Highlights

- ◆ Roman Catholic Bishop of Orange Garden Grove, Director of Finance and Controller, Interim CFO
- ◆ Ernst & Young, LLP Irvine, California, Senior Manager
- ◆ United States Marine Corps Camp Pendleton, Captain, Infantry (Airborne)

Languages

- ◆ English
- ◆ French

For over 15 years, BGA has proudly filled the gap that often exists between accounting firms striving to maintain independence and their clients. We understand the compliance requirements and needs of our public and private clients. Our unwavering commitment to excellence has enabled us to assist thousands of domestic and international companies with everything from complex M&A transactions to IPOs and technical accounting for financial reporting.

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Associations & Certifications

- ◆ Certified Public Accountant, California
- ◆ American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)
- ◆ Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA)



Education

- ◆ **MBA in Accounting**, The Paul Merage School of Business, University of California, Irvine
- ◆ **BS in Economics**, Dalhousie University, Nova Scotia, Canada
- ◆ NetSuite accounting system, ADP Workforce Now payroll system, and FISCAL D&L trust system

Experience



Roman Catholic Bishop of
Orange Garden Grove, California

◆ Director of Finance and Controller,
Interim Chief Financial Officer - 2017 to 2022

- ◆ Modeled stewardship by enforcing fiscal discipline and improving fiscal transparency. Managed and controlled the financial position of the diocese to deploy scarce resources to maximize impact for strategic imperatives.
- ◆ Implemented process improvements to increase accuracy, completeness, and timeliness of financial data. Led efforts to develop Capital Expense and Debt Management policies, and comprehensive updates to the Finance Manual. Applied account reconciliations for all balance sheet accounts and accelerates and expanded paperless processing and electronic payments for accounts receivable and payable.
- ◆ Developed a monthly executive reporting package using improved data quality and reliability to include interim financial statements with historical and budget variance analyses, interim statement of cash flows with cash flow forecast, analysis of liquidity and portfolio restrictions, and accounts receivable aging analysis.
- ◆ Closed the fiscal year months earlier than prior history. Prepared financial statements with zero consultant assistance, and issued the annual financial statement audit early, with zero internal control deficiencies for the first time ever and with only minimal audit adjustments. Reinstated deposit and loan trust (D&L) financial statement reviews for the first time in 13 years, with no auditor findings.
- ◆ Led the Accounting Department through staffing challenges, including turnover from terminations, transfers, and leaves of absence. Optimized workloads, balanced and streamlined tasks, maintained frequent feedback sessions, and documented performance.
- ◆ Designed, implemented, and tested new application implementations including: NetSuite accounting system, ADP Workforce Now payroll system, and FISCAL D&L trust system.
- ◆ Converted over a hundred diocesan bank accounts from Bank of America into Farmers and Merchants Bank account with each zero-balance bank account sweeping to a master concentration account.
- ◆ Remotely operated the Accounting Department during the pandemic with no adverse impact on the service level. Accelerated monthly time to close and cash conversion cycles by more than a week. Leveraged efficiencies from time saved to add value by closely monitoring liquidity and investment values and resolving issues.

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Experience



Ernst & Young, LLP Irvine, California ◆ Senior Manager, Internal Audit - 2007 to 2017

- ◆ Administered profitable engagements, met strict deadlines, delivered superior client service, and received personal rewards and recognition.
- ◆ Developed and monitored budgets for book of business, including volume, revenue, margin, billings, and collections. Took proactive corrective measures to improve margin, increase sales, and accelerate cash flow, and presented results to engagement partners.
- ◆ Led accounting project teams, comprising four to twelve people of various ranks and specialties, including offshore resources. Encouraged a culture of open communication, high performance, and flexibility. Coached teams through challenges and inspired and motivated them to succeed. Received strongly favorable upward feedback.
- ◆ Collaborated with clients in accounting, finance, treasury, and operational departments, and coordinated with independent auditors. Built productive relationships based on active listening, understanding and prioritization of basic issues, maintaining confidentiality, and paying attention to details. Researched technical accounting issues, monitored changing external factors and regulatory requirements, and continued education to advise clients and lead teams knowledgeably and innovatively. Led special client projects to write accounting memos, to assess and to prepare for initial public offering (IPO) readiness, and for audit compliance with new standards.
- ◆ Assurance and advisory skills include financial statement audit (US GAAP), internal audit, risk assessment, Sarbanes-Oxley Section 404 (SOX) compliance, general computer controls, application controls, current state assessment and future state design, especially for the following business processes: documenting accounting policies and procedures, maintaining chart of accounts, developing and managing financial controls, managing cash and investments, accounting for revenues and receivables, managing inventory and accounts payable, managing payroll and expenses, monitoring debt and covenant compliance, filing and paying income taxes, reconciling accounts, developing and monitoring financial key performance indicators (KPI) metrics by routine analysis, consolidating financial results, and compiling, analyzing, and presenting financial statement reporting packages.
- ◆ Audit experiences include: planning, interviewing, documenting understanding with narratives, flow-charts and risk control matrices, designing work plans, selecting samples, performing analytical and substantive audit procedures, tying-out financial statements, identifying weaknesses, validating findings, reporting conclusions, and monitoring issues.
- ◆ Consulting experiences include: designing surveys, interpreting and depicting focus group data in risk heat maps, optimizing processes and controls, and developing multi-location control implementation guidance.



United States Marine Corps Camp Pendleton ◆ Captain, Infantry (Airborne) - 2002 to 2008

- ◆ Counseled, advised, mentored, and coached cross-functional teams from diverse cultural, social, and economic backgrounds for several complex assignments, including three combat deployments, and supervised all aspects of welfare, discipline, training, and re-supply.
- ◆ Developed, supported, controlled, and directed training ranging from live-fire exercises to family readiness counseling for a department of 250 professionals.

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Experience

- ◆ Served as an air controller (JTAC) and planned, coordinated, and controlled aviation and fire support assets in direct support of Iraqi special forces.
- ◆ Twice decorated for superior leadership and professional achievement in combat, supporting coalition forces during the global war on terror, for organizing and leading the defense of the company's combat outpost by successfully repelling the enemy's attempt to infiltrate the compound, and for leading patrols and convoys through complex ambushes.

Contact Us

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Blythe Global Advisors is headquartered in Southern California with a broad geographic reach across the United States via the BlytheTeam®

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