

William Richards, CPA

Will is the Practice Leader of Strategic Accounting & Finance Operations at Blythe Global Advisors. He works closely with private and public companies to strengthen their finance functions, especially during critical inflection points—whether preparing for a first-time audit, navigating a leadership gap, or managing the complexities of a transaction. Will provides clients with strategic support in areas such as interim leadership, audit readiness, capital-raise preparation, and operational improvement. Together with Blythe's team of experienced professionals, he delivers both technical expertise and practical execution, enabling organizations to maintain momentum and confidence during periods of change.

Credentials & Expertise

Expertise

- ◆ U.S. GAAP and SEC financial reporting
- ◆ Sarbanes-Oxley
- ◆ Internal audit
- ◆ Risk management/compliance
- ◆ Lease accounting
- ◆ Bank Secrecy Act/Anti-money Laundering compliance
- ◆ Technical accounting
- ◆ Finance transformations
- ◆ Data analytics
- ◆ Process improvements

Industries

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------|
| ◆ Technology | ◆ Retail |
| ◆ Financial services | ◆ Restaurants |
| ◆ Health sciences | ◆ Gaming/casino |
| ◆ Pharmaceutical | ◆ Entertainment |

Associations & Certifications

- ◆ Certified Public Accountant licensed in California
- ◆ Member, American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)
- ◆ Founding member, past president and member of the alumni chapter advisory board, Phi Delta Theta Cal Gamma Fraternity

Highlights

- ◆ A 360-degree project perspective: An understanding of how to leverage and integrate IT and accounting requirements to help companies improve infrastructure, processes and procedures while also respecting the impact on company culture.
- ◆ Project management skills:
 - ◆ Repeatedly recognized by clients as the "go-to" person – the result of leadership that's evident at every phase of an engagement.
 - ◆ The "glue" who ensures projects stay on track and that clients are continuously in the loop while also simultaneously relieved of day-to-day interactions
 - ◆ A multitasker who ran three projects simultaneously each involving upgrading clients' accounting competency from essentially no organized recordkeeping to audit readiness.
- ◆ Communications skills: Proficiency at evaluating accounting processes and translating observations into clear, concise actionable management recommendations regarding what to maintain, what to improve and what to add.
- ◆ Blend of people and technical skills: An understanding beyond the rules, regulations, processes, procedures, systems and hardwires of how to engage and connect people to solutions.

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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Credentials & Expertise



Technical Proficiency

- ◆ MS Office
- ◆ VBA programming
- ◆ MS Power BI
- ◆ IDEA



Education

- ◆ BA with a major in Business/Economics and a minor in Accounting, University of California at Los Angeles

Experience



Grant Thornton

Grant Thornton LLP ◆ 2013 to 2017

- ◆ Performed Sarbanes-Oxley internal audit compliance work for multiple large public companies including Caesars Entertainment.
 - ◆ Operated in a manager capacity overseeing a team of eight and reporting to the certified association executive and clients' external auditors.
 - ◆ Other responsibilities included deliverable reviews, management reporting, billing and team training.
- ◆ Assisted management with the preparation and implementation of the new ASC 842 lease accounting standards.
 - ◆ Performed lease reviews, classifications and embedded lease search procedures.
 - ◆ Drafted technical accounting memos and lease policies to support lease transformation procedures and future state lease accounting.
- ◆ Led compliance audits focused on Bank Secrecy Act/anti-money laundering and Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) monitoring regulatory requirements.
 - ◆ Designed internal controls and processes related to anti-money laundering monitoring and the implementation of a new transaction monitoring system to support FDIC consent order remediation.
- ◆ Developed finance department and procure-to-pay process transformations including building a roadmap for restructuring the finance department and identifying efficiency opportunities within the procurement/payables functions.
- ◆ Performed data analytics procedures in tools such as Excel, Microsoft Power BI and IDEA.

Contact Us

Blythe Global Advisors, LLC

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

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