

JAMES LAVALA, CPA
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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY: Liaison with senior management, process owners and business units to resolve complex business and system issues. With "Big 4", Fortune 500 as well as small-midsize business experience: analytics and creative problem solving are value-added initiatives while working effectively in all aspects of internal audit, process and business analysis. Proven ability to provide outstanding solutions on ad hoc projects, critical management issues: ensuring exceptional results and value-added deliverables.

SKILLS: Internal Audit (SOX), Project Management, Risk Management, Requirements Gathering & Analysis, User Acceptance Testing (UAT), Financial Statement Analysis, Inter-Company Reconciliation, Process Documentation, Tax (Individual, Partnership & Corporate), Financial Modeling, Planning & Forecasting, Process Restructuring, Ad Hoc Projects, SAP/SAS, AWT/SAA, Compass, Congo, CORE, Oracle, PeopleSoft, and Microsoft Office.

CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

BUSINESS PROCESS ADVISORY, New York, NY *January 2008 – Present*

Consultant

Work independently or in conjunction with accounting, public or private firms in a consultative capacity; process financial analysis, accounting, audit or business needs. Ensure client's goals and objectives are met in a timely and effective manner. Audit transactions history, financial and management controls and synthesis and analysis of tax and business values. Monitor business developments, create organizational procedures for identifying governmental or corporate standards around operational controls for effectiveness and validity. Perform review of business standards, organize and/or propose operating procedures; often, rewriting process control procedures. File business taxes including: sales and use, corporate and personal tax. File trademark and copyright applications with appropriate federal agencies. **Intuit - Business/JDA/TaxFyle: Research, Review, Advice:** Individual, Partnerships, C-Corps, S-Corps including Estate, Trust, Gift, HNW, Non-Profits, etc. Completed training and course studies with certification in Intuit - Tax Level I & II. Additional training and courses include: working with complex income situations, such as multiple states, foreign income, and ESPPs. Determining business income and correct reporting on Schedule C. Analyzed and determined correct reporting for complex tax situations, including investments, interest, rental income, and more.

KPMG, New York, NY *(October 2021– January 2022)*

Internal Audit Consultant (JPMorganChase)

Issue Validation: Working remotely with JPMC Internal Audit and corporate governance, reviewed work papers for issues under review. Remediated and processed issue documentation (SAA) for audit committee and senior management review. Audited control and process-owner documentation to resolve issues of non-compliance with corporate governance standards. **Control Testing:** TPO Standards - standards set forth by JPMC organizational policies and procedures for the initiation, continuation and disengagement of vendors and suppliers. All controls set forth with these standards - tested for consistency in application and execution of controls via verification and validation. Legal (OLO) and legal regulatory monitoring governance standards set controls of the firm's legal obligations. Reviewed and gained understanding of corporate monitoring and implementation of all legal obligations (foreign & domestic).

PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE, Newark, NJ *(July 2013 – January 2014)*

Audit Consultant

Control testing and financial analysis specifically focused on SOX 404 compliance for both governmental and internal compliance. Testing areas include: employee benefit plan, tax and compliance; including internal control over employee stock options, financial investments, payroll and information technology. Coordinated with management ensuring remediation procedures were processed as required.

VOLT INFORMATION SCIENCE, INC., New York, NY *(August 2011 - November 2011)*

Treasury Audit Consultant

Worked in a consultative capacity with Volt corporate (internal audit), coordinated by Ernst & Young. Reviewed and tested treasury functions in accordance with Sarbanes Oxley and its related control frameworks (COSO). Audited and reviewed processing of wire transfers for random, as well as, routine transactions processed via chase insight, treasury cash management system. Obtained understanding of daily cash reconciliation, cash journal postings and monthly reconciliation of Volt's treasury transactions. Written reports on findings and recommendations: created and submitted to audit managers and external auditors (E&Y).

AIG (Marine, Global & Energy) New York, NY *(March 2008 - September 2008)*

Accounts Receivable Reconciliation Audit Consultant

Studied and gained understanding of insurance premium accounting along with its related flow through Gain, Cruise, Alps and SAP. Traced premium bookings from broker under-writing system (Gain, Cruise and Alps) to related entries in SAP. Identified accounting entries booked in error and provided format to account for un-booked premiums in SAP accounting system. Business impact: 10 million increased revenue.

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AIG (AIUOA) New York, NY (*December 2005 - June 2006*)

Account Reconciliation Audit Consultant (Sarbanes Remediation & Implementation)

Worked with the Vice President and Controller to outline key controls in the account reconciliation process; based on study of key controls, created documentation standards to compile with internal and external account reconciliation requirements. Audited, analyzed and drafted management report based on 3rd quarter account reconciliations, ensuring 4th quarter write-offs and exposure analyses were properly documented and substantiated for external audit (PWC) testing. Developed account reconciliation template to be deployed throughout AIUOA entities. Template included: excel based account reconciliation worksheet, aging worksheet, and electronic (preparers, reviewers and management) account reconciliation checklist.

Employment Experience

MAHONEY COHEN & COMPANY, CPA, PC New York, NY (*June 2006 - February 2008*)

Internal Audit Consultant

Worked directly with partner and senior manager to structure and coordinate internal audit functions. Provided guidance on work-paper documentation and preparation in order to facilitate department's compliance with PCAOB work-paper profile. Managed junior and senior auditors with: SOX 404 testing (TRW, TRM & RCM), data accuracy and validity. Business process analyzed: SEC Reporting, Debt Covenant, Employee Benefit Plans, Payroll, Financial Statement Close, Treasury, Financial Statement Variance Analysis and Fixed Assets. Managed and supervised SOX testing team; supervised and reviewed documentation processed by junior and senior auditors. **IT Audit:** audit of change management process and oracle configuration (segregation of duties). Identified key controls, documented process, narrative and work-papers to management. Developed Risk & Control Matrix (RCM) process to identify and analyze business exposure to IT risk. Reviewed and tested IT general controls, application controls and segregation of duties within business, operational and financial reporting; including organizational flow chart and mapping. Evaluated and tested IT, operational, security and change management for compliance with control framework.

ERNST & YOUNG, LLP New York, NY (*July 2004 – October 2005*)

Internal/External Auditor

Sarbanes-Oxley-404 compliance: Process documentation, narrative, and walkthrough of management key controls; test of controls, recommendation and remediation procedures. Interim and year-end audit procedure for fortune 500 companies: retail, communication, legal, energy and pharmaceutical industries. Performed substantive testing, internal control documentation, IT risk analysis, processing and testing of controls as a functioning part in a team environment. Analytics: evaluation analysis, review and investigation into details of high volume, high impact and high-risk accounts. Research and analysis of accounting issues including purchase accounting.

BLACK NEXXUS, INC New York, NY (*April 2003 - June 2004*)

Senior Business Analyst

Performed financial and operational compliance audits along with business process review.

JUMPCUT, INC New York, NY (*January 2002 - March 2003*)

Business Analyst

Audited production budgets, reviewed and analyzed contracts for B-to-B enterprise web-casting productions. Analyzed financial statement accounts: prepared financial reports for senior management. Analyzed accounts payable, accounts receivable and banking: ensuring accuracy, correctness. Established and coordinated employee benefit plans including payroll with ADP. Performed monthly and quarterly analysis, reconciliation and journal entries to G/L for employee benefit plan and payroll based on vendor reporting.

PRICEWATERHOUSECOOPERS (PWC), New York, NY (*February 2001 – December 2001*)

Property Tax Associate

Provided consulting service to the firm's clients in an advisory role while occasionally preparing property tax returns and proposing, based on tax research, optimal handling of property tax issues. Drafted proposals to gain and expand property tax clients through need base analysis, proposing various value added propositions.

MARRIOTT INC Rockville, Maryland (*January 1997 - January 1999*)

Property Tax Accountant/Internal Audit

Audited internal and external records ensuring personal property assets were recorded and coded according to company procedures. Analyzed and reviewed personal property tax assessments. Performed analytic reviews; including detailed testing of accrual account balances.

EDUCATION: University of Rio Grande, Rio Grande, OH (*June 1996*), Accounting; La Sorbonne, Paris France (Feb. 2014 – April 2017); Mairie De Paris, Paris, France (March 2016 – September 2016) - **CERTIFICATIONS:** *Licensed CPA, Maryland*; Passed 2 parts for CIA certification; French Language, Culture & Civilization (A1 & A2); Contrôle de Gestion et Reporting Sous Excel, Intuit- Tax - Level I & II Certifications.