



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – PHOTO OF VIRGINIA BRUNS ATTACHED

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## ACAT Announces 2017-2018 Board of Directors

WASHINGTON, DC, September 27, 2017 – The Accreditation Council for Accountancy and Taxation (ACAT) announced its 2017-2018 Board of Directors.

ACAT is an independent accrediting and monitoring organization affiliated with the National Society of Accountants (NSA). It accredits professionals in independent practice who have demonstrated measurable knowledge of the principles, practices, and ethical standards of accounting, taxation, information technology and related financial services.

Virginia Bruns, CPA, EA, ABA, ATA, ATP, ARA of Johnson Bruns Company in Big Lake, MN, continues for a second year as President. She holds all four credentials offered by ACAT, which include:

- **ABA Accredited Business Accountant® (ABA)** – For practitioners who specialize in the financial accounting, financial reporting, financial statement preparation, taxation, business consulting services, business law, and ethics for small-to-medium-sized businesses and in financial services to individuals and family.
- **Accredited Tax Advisor® (ATA)** – For practitioners who can handle sophisticated tax planning issues, including planning for owners of closely held businesses, planning for the highly compensated, choosing qualified retirement

plans and performing estate tax planning. Their expertise covers tax returns for individuals, business entities, fiduciaries, trusts and estates, as well as tax planning, tax consulting and ethics.

- **Accredited Tax Preparer® (ATP)** – For practitioners who have a thorough knowledge of the existing tax code and the preparation of individual tax returns. Their expertise covers comprehensive 1040 issues (including supporting schedules, self-employed returns, etc.) and ethics.
- **Accredited Retirement Advisor® (ARA)** – For practitioners who have expertise in preparing their clients for retirement; the essentials of estate and trust planning and choosing appropriate retirement plans.

Tax and accounting professionals earn their credentials through a combination of experience and passing a credentialing exam.

Lawrence Walkden, EA, ATA, ABA, ARA of Snohomish & Monroe Accounting in Monroe, WA was elected as ACAT Vice President.

William R. Silzer, ABA, ATP of Precision Accounting Services, Inc. in Sterling, VA was elected as a Board member.

Milton “Sandy” Martin Jr., ATP, ARA of Martin Family Enterprises in Exeter, NH was elected as a Board member.

Jeff Lear of Fairfax, VA was elected as the Public Director. The Public Director represents the public or non-employer consumer interest and brings a broader perspective to the decision-making of the certification program.

NSA First Vice President Christine Freeland, CPA, ABA, ARA of Christine Z. Freeland, CPA, PC in Chandler, AZ also now serves on the Board for the year.

ACAT officers and directors continuing their terms on the Board of Directors include:

- Secretary/Treasurer Christine Giovetti, CPA, ABA, ATA, ARA of Giovetti & Giovetti in Catonsville, MD.
- Director Michael P. Salazar, CPA, EA, ABA of Michael P. Salazar CPA, PC in Augusta, GA.
- Cynthia Hunt, EA, ATA of Cyntax, LLC in Huntsville, AL

For more information about ACAT, visit [www.acatcredentials.org](http://www.acatcredentials.org) or call 888-289-7763.

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NSA and its affiliates represent more than 30,000 practitioners who provide accounting, auditing, tax preparation, financial and estate planning, and management services to approximately 19 million individuals and business clients. Most members are sole practitioners or partners in small- to medium-size accounting firms. NSA protects the public by requiring its members to adhere to a strict code of ethics. For more information, visit [www.nsacct.org](http://www.nsacct.org).