# Top 11 Best Accounting Firms in Houston, Texas

#### 2016 RANKING OF TOP ACCOUNTING FIRMS

### Finding the Top Accounting Firms in Houston, Texas

Who is an accountant? What does a CPA firm do for you? How can working with a top accounting firm change your business or personal finances?

Often, clients don't have a complete picture of the relationship and benefits they can derive from working with a reputable accounting firm, but asking these questions before choosing a firm to work with can make all the difference.

When you're considering Houston accounting firms, it's vital to note that these people are not just going to handle the technicalities of your taxes; ultimately, they will provide you with value-creating financial guidance.

This level of expert advice and insight can have a positive impact on nearly every aspect of your business and your life.

It's with this importance in mind that we created the following guide to the best accounting firms in Houston, Texas.



# AdvisoryHQ's List of the Best Accounting Firms in Houston, TX

- ABIP CPAs
- CRI Carr Riggs & Ingram LLC
- <u>Desroches Partners LLP</u>
- EEPB, P.C.
- · Harper & Pearson, P.C.
- Hein & Associates
- MaloneBailey LLP
- McConnell & Jones LLP
- Melton & Melton LLP
- Pannell Kerr Forster of Texas, P.C.
- Weinstein Spira

This list is sorted alphabetically (click any of the above names to go directly to the detailed review for that accounting firm).

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**Top 11 Best Accounting Firms in Houston, Texas** 

Firms	Location
ABIP CPA's & Advisors	Houston
Carr, Riggs & Ingram LLC	Houston
Desroches Partners LLP	Houston
ЕЕРВ, Р.С.	Houston
Harper & Pearson Company, P.C.	Houston
Hein & Associates LLP	Houston
MaloneBailey LLP	Houston
McConnell & Jones LLP	Houston
Melton & Melton LLP	Houston
Pannell Kerr Forster of Texas, P.C. (PKF)	Houston

# **Methodology for Selecting Accounting Firms in Houston, TX**

What methodology did we use in selecting this list of the best accounting firms in Houston?

Based on a variety of publicly available sources, AdvisoryHQ identified a wide range of Houston accounting firms, as well as those firms serving nearby suburbs and surrounding areas.

Then, we used the signature Advisory HQ "Breakthrough Selection Methodology" to narrow down our list of the top accounting firms in Houston.

Click here for a detailed explanation of our methodology: AdvisoryHQ's Methodology for Selecting Top Accounting Firms.

# Detailed Review—Top Ranking Accounting Firms in Houston, TX

After carefully considering Houston accounting firms, we compiled the following list of the top 11 firms. As you continue reading, you'll find detailed reviews for each of our picks, as well as some of the factors we used in our decision-making process.

### **ABIP CPA Review**

Get Free Emblem Request PDF of Review Get Personalized Page Servicing not only Houston but also San Antonio, ABIP is a firm consisting of both professional CPAs and advisors.

Services include assurance, tax, accounting, and specialized options so that clients have the information and personalized guidance they need to manage both their businesses and their individual finances.

Uniquely, rather than maintaining traditional ideas regarding finance, the ABIP team works to deliver insight, innovation, and new ideas so that clients feel excited about their accounting firm.

This full-service firm offers year-round guidance to clients from all backgrounds under the leadership of a team of shareholders and experienced managers.

# **Key Factors That Enabled This Firm to Rank as a Top 2016 Accounting Firm**

While it was difficult to narrow down, below are some of the key deciding factors that led ABIP CPA to rank as one of our 2016 top 11 accounting firms in Houston.

**Proactive Approach** 

ABIP is one of our picks of Houston accounting firms because of their focus on helping clients achieve goals and navigate through whatever phase they may be in, in their lives and their businesses.

Their approach is reliant on creating new solutions and driving clients toward greater financial success and security while helping them overcome potential hurdles or complexities.

Clients don't rely on the same traditional methodologies when partnering with ABIP. As a top accounting firm in Houston, ABIP delivers fresh, out-of-the-box guidance to clients.

#### The Ability to Adapt

One element of doing business with ABIP that led to its selection as one of the best Houston accounting firms is the capacity to be flexible and adapt to changes in the client's situation.

The team understands that financial objectives change depending on the particular phase of the lifecycle a client may be in.

From economic challenges to risk concerns, working with ABIP means your CPA and advisement team will consider your individuality and factor this into their financial strategy.

Your needs and preferences may shift and evolve over time; the understanding and willingness to adapt is imperative to the ABIP approach.

#### Goal-Focused

As a client of ABIP, you have goals. Those goals could be finding more efficient ways to maintain your taxes, or they could be planning for a successful retirement. Perhaps you're looking for ways to make your small business more profitable.

Whatever your objectives are, ABIP approaches each client relationship within a goals-driven framework to help you get from where you are to where you want to be in the most successful way possible.

#### **Affiliations**

As a leading accounting firm in Houston, ABIP is backed by the reputation and prestige of professional affiliations with CPA Connect and International Referral.

CPA Connect is a membership organization giving ABIP access to more than 29,000 accounting, audit and tax professionals located throughout the world.

This is advantageous if a client requires specialized or global advisement for international markets.

International Referral is a global membership organization delivering affiliations with law firms that have specific niche experience in worldwide industries.

As members of this group, the ABIP team can access consultants, brokers and specialized professionals as needed to provide a greater depth of service.

### Carr Riggs & Ingram (CRI) Review

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Headed by Bill Carr, Steve Riggs, and Phyllis Ingram, CRI is a team of accountants and business advisers with services including general accounting, auditing, consulting, and tax services.

Along with locations throughout Houston and Texas, this accounting firm also has offices throughout the South, including Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, and Tennessee.

This regional accounting firm has been ranked as the 22<sup>nd</sup> largest accounting firm in the U.S., as well as the fastest growing in the country.

More than 1,200 accounting professionals make up this company, and that extensive reach and knowledge base is one of many reasons we selected CRI as a top accounting firm in Houston.

**Key Factors That Led Us to Rank This Firm as a Top 11 2016 Accounting Firm in Houston** 

Based on our specific methodology, below we highlight some of the factors leading to our decision to rank CRI as one of 2016's top accounting firms in Houston.

#### Focus on Technology

As one of the leading accounting firms in Houston, CRI maintains a strong dedication to using the highest levels of innovation and technology to deliver services.

This is important because it not only keeps them on the leading edge of the services they're providing, but the use of technology also allows the CRI team to maintain a comprehensive network of resources throughout the country and the world.

The use of extensive technology lets you benefit from the experience and knowledge of not just the associates located in the Houston office, but also that of the personnel located in offices throughout the Southern region.

There is no situation too complex or difficult, thanks largely to the use of technology to facilitate effortless networking.

#### **Quality Service**

One of the primary focus areas for this Houston accounting firm is in the delivery of top-quality service. CRI undergoes regular peer reviews, as well as PCAOB inspections, which always demonstrate this dedication to quality.

The most recent CRI peer review showed the most favorable results possible and an unqualified opinion (a document stating that the independent auditor found no fault with the documents provided).

The same was found in past years, with no audit deficiencies or quality control issues identified.

#### **Industry Focus**

CRI offers industry specialization, so when you partner with this Houston accounting firm, you're not just getting accounting and tax knowledge; your team members will also have experience within your industry and will understand the issues you face.

#### These industries served by CRI include:

- Agribusiness
- Biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, and life sciences
- Condominium associations/homeowner associations
- Construction services
- Consumer products
- Financial institutions
- Government contracting services
- Government services
- Healthcare
- Hospitality and restaurants
- Insurance
- Manufacturing, distribution, and wholesalers
- Not-for-profit and education
- Oil and gas
- Professional services firms
- Real estate
- Service industries
- Trucking and transportation

#### **Employee Training**

As a reputable accounting firm in Houston, CRI understands that their success hinges on the strength of their employees. For that reason, they have an extensive focus on employee training and development.

This is important for clients because it ensures their CPA or advisory team is going to be up-to-date on all standards, regulations, and best practices while being able to deliver the highest possible service level.

Employees participate in ongoing training including the Annual CRI CPE Week and the CRI Leadership Academy.

Formal training also includes focus on the Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB), Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) and Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) topics and requirements.

### **Desroches Partners Review**

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Desroches Partners, LLP, is located in the Energy Corridor of West Houston and provides services including tax, consulting, and assurance. All work done by this Houston accounting firm is driven by a dedication to ethical standards and a desire for excellence.

At Desroches Partners, you'll find the financial team wants to bring clients the most valuable solutions while also creating deep, long-term relationships with each and every client, including private businesses and high-net-worth individuals.

# **Key Factors That Enabled This Firm to Rank as a Top 2016 Accounting Firm in Houston**

We'll explore Desroches Partners and highlight some of the factors that led us to name it a top 2016 accounting firm in Houston.

#### Signature Method

Desroches, one of the leading Houston accounting firms, has developed a method that allows them to provide clients with the highest level of personalized service and attention.

It's defined as a "perfect ratio of 1:1:1." This means each client is paired with at least one partner and associate.

This creates a sense of accountability, and clients always have a point-person they can contact who will have in-depth knowledge of their personal situation.

This personalized approach allows Desroches to help clients uncover the best possible business and tax strategies not only for their current situation but into the long-term as well.

#### Focus on the 1%

This Houston accounting firm works with targeted clientele, which they define as "focusing 100% on the 1%." This includes high-net-worth individuals and privately held businesses in varied industries.

This laser-focused approach allows Desroches Partners to ensure each client is getting the most advanced services in the realm of estate and business

succession planning, as well as the preparing of financial reports and tax reduction strategies.

#### Service Areas

As well as working with a particular clientele to ensure the best quality, at Desroches the services are also very specific.

#### Services include:

- Tax planning and consulting
- Estate and succession planning
- Tax compliance
- Audit services
- Family office services

#### Localized Attention with International Access

Something notable about this accounting firm in Houston is their ability to provide intimate, localized service and attention to area clients, but at the same time, as high-end advisors, they can also tap into a network of international resources when required.

Clients receive the personalized relationship that comes with working with a boutique firm, yet the partners and associates can expand their reach internationally if that's where clients' personal or business interests may be. It's a structure with broad appeal.

### **EEPB P.C. Review**

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EEPB, P.C. is one of the largest accounting firms in Houston, offering services to both businesses and individuals.

The firm was founded in 1987by Mike Easley, Nick Endres, Steve Parkhill and Melvin Brackendorff. It now has more than 70 employees and works with clients ranging from entrepreneurs launching new businesses to large-scale corporations.

Industries served by EEPB include real estate, professional services, oil and gas, transportation, distribution, manufacturing, retail, wholesale, and professional services.

# **Key Factors That Allowed This Firm to Rank as a Top 2016 Accounting Firm**

Below are some of the criteria we used to rank EEPB P.C. as one of 2016's top accounting firms in Houston.

#### <u>Professional Memberships</u>

While EEPB is a local accounting firm in Houston providing regional service, they do have an international background and network from which to draw knowledge and expertise because of their membership in DFK International USA.

DFK International is an association of independent accounting firms located in main cities throughout the U.S. and the world.

With this affiliation, EEPB can access a wide range of resources and expertise when needed, making them able to deliver comprehensive and sophisticated solutions without limits.

#### **Ongoing Communication**

Extensive and regular communication defines the high level of client engagement at EEPB, which is foundational to their company's character. The belief at EEPB is that successful relationships exist only when there's ongoing communication between the client and their team.

Everyone is involved in what's happening, and EEPB's team members also make sure all key stakeholders have an in-depth understanding of the objectives and scope of any given project.

This helps avoid potential problems and improves workflows, consistency and delivery. It also helps projects stay on budget and within the specified timeline.

#### **Engaged Employees**

Something we found notable about EEPB, and one of the many reasons it's selected as one of the top Houston accounting firms, is their dedication to

making sure employees are happy and therefore engaged and able to deliver the best possible service to each client.

Regarding EEPB as an exemplary workplace, this Houston accounting firm has been named as one of the best places to work by *Accounting Today* and the *Houston Chronicle*.

#### <u>Diverse Perspectives</u>

As a top accounting firm in Houston, it's important to be able to offer your extensive range of clients unique and diverse perspectives—and that's what clients receive at EEPB.

Several of the firm's directors are female, and they also employ directors from different educational backgrounds and personnel with unique areas of expertise.

This is one reason it ranks on our list of accounting firms in Houston; you're not going to be working with an accounting team that has only one way of thinking or only one experience area.

This ensures you're going to be able to uncover the best solutions for your unique preferences, needs, and situation.

## Harper & Pearson Company, P.C. Review

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Established in 1962, Harper & Pearson has a reputation for being one of the most long-standing, full-service accounting firms in the greater Houston area. Harper & Pearson provides services in a range of industries and has a staff of almost 80 employees.

This Houston accounting firm has been growing for more than 50 years and continues to deliver a depth of knowledge, insightful solutions, and client-driven service.

# **Key Factors That Enabled Us to Rank This Firm as a Top 2016 Accounting Firm**

We'll explore some of the unique elements of Harper & Pearson, which led us to select it as one of 2016's top 11 accounting firms in Houston, TX.

#### Worldwide Reach

At this accounting firm in Houston, you'll receive not only localized knowledge and experience along with personalized attention, but Harper & Pearson also provides you with the added advantage of a globalized reach.

This independently owned and operated Houston accounting firm is part of CPAmerica International, which is one of the world's largest professional associations.

This network includes more than 160 independent firms located in more than 100 countries throughout the world.

Due to this membership, Harper & Pearson's team members have access to more than 2,500 markets, both national and international.

#### Commitment to Community

At the core of Harper & Pearson's corporate strategy is a deep commitment to the community. They are interested in investing and volunteering in their community because it's where they work but also where they live.

This Houston accounting firm contributes both time and money to a range of local organizations, all with the goal of creating a positive impact and improving the quality of life in the area they live.

This allows Harper & Pearson to also maintain its role as a leader in the community.

#### <u>Technical Quality</u>

Everything Harper & Pearson does is driven by not only a commitment to creating strong and lasting relationships with clients but also by a desire to deliver the very highest level of technical quality.

This comes not only from existing knowledge and experience, but the Harper & Pearson team is also continuously trained and developed to ensure they know every possible regulation, guideline, or potential issue facing a client.

There is an extreme focus on accuracy and detail at Harper & Pearson, which is how they're able to maintain stringent technical quality.

#### **Entrepreneurial Services**

Along with general accounting and financial services, there is a specific area of service at Harper & Pearson dedicated to entrepreneurial needs.

They don't only aim to help businesses with technical concerns, but they work to deliver solutions that facilitate business growth and address entrepreneurial challenges.

The team at Harper & Pearson can help entrepreneurial clients discover new opportunities, remedy very difficult challenges, and successfully plan for the future.

You can opt to work with the team on short-term complexities or on long-term strategies.

Some of the particular services offered to entrepreneurs by Harper & Pearson include:

- Month-end/year-end closing
- General ledger maintenance and bookkeeping
- Budgeting and cash flow assistance
- Income tax planning
- Mentoring internal accounting staff
- Payroll tax compliance
- Property tax compliance
- QuickBooks online support
- Start-up assistance
- Virtual accounting department
- International inbound startup assistance

### **Hein & Associates LLP Review**

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Hein & Associates has offices not only in Houston but also Dallas, Denver, and Orange County.

This firm has been providing both accounting and advisory services to companies in various industries for over 30 years, and they tailor their services to the needs of both public and private companies.

Service areas where Hein specializes include audit and assurance, taxes, business advisory, and outsourced accounting services.

Industry focus areas include energy, manufacturing and distribution, private equity, real estate and construction, and technology.

# **Key Factors Leading Us to Rank This Firm as a Top 2016 Accounting Firm**

We compiled some of the factors which contributed to our ranking decision of Hein as one of 2016's top 11 accounting firms in Houston, TX.

#### Core Values

Having strong, clearly defined core values in place is important in any business, but particularly in an accounting firm, where ethics and transparency are so vital.

#### Core values at Hein include:

- **Continuous Growth:** This means not only professional growth but also personal growth. The goal is for each employee to improve knowledge and relationships, both with colleagues and with clients.
- **Honesty and integrity:** Communications are honest and straightforward. It's this element that allows for trust to be built among coworkers and clients, which facilitates the sense of teamwork so pivotal to everything Hein does.
- **Personal Responsibility:** Accountability is emphasized, as is taking general responsibility, always communicating on issues when they first arise, and a desire to find the ideal solutions for every challenge.
- **Respect:** The Golden Rule is a guiding principle in all interactions at Hein, meaning everyone is treated with consideration to foster teamwork.

#### <u>Awards and Recognitions</u>

As one of the leading Houston accounting firms, Hein has been the recipient of many awards and honors over the years that demonstrate their excellence.

#### Some of these awards include:

• 2016 Top 100 Firms—Accounting Today

- Best of the Best "Pyramid Award"—Inside Public Accounting
- Best of the Best Firms—*Inside Public Accounting*
- Top Workplaces 2015—The Denver Post
- 2015 Vault Accounting 50—Vault.com
- Top 50 Auditors Ranked by Total SEC Registrants—Audit Analytics

#### <u>Face-to-Face Approach</u>

In today's digitally driven world, it can be difficult to engage in meaningful inperson interactions.

Hein works to deliver not just face-to-face meetings and relationships with clients, but they always strive to be completely visible and involved in each and every aspect of service they're performing for their clients.

That is perhaps one of the most pivotal reasons we selected them as one of the top accounting firms in Houston; it is such a rarity in today's world of email and online communications.

When you partner with Hein, you're going to get the value that comes from meeting with your team and from having value-driven, in-person communication, which leads to a greater quality of service as well as peace of mind.

#### **Knowledge Sharing**

The goal of partnerships between Hein and clients is not just to create valuable solutions, although this is, of course, important.

It's also about giving clients an understanding of what's being done and the "why" behind it.

Knowledge sharing is an integral part of a partnership with Hein, which means clients work in close collaboration with their accounting team to learn why decisions are being made and what the impact will be.

Hein associates bring to the table specialized technical and industry skills, they're SEC leaders, and they have both national and international capabilities.

Each employee undergoes rigorous technical and professional development throughout their career, ensuring they're well-equipped with the highest level of technical and regulatory knowledge.

## **MaloneBailey LLP Review**

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A prestigious accounting firm in Houston, MaloneBailey works with small and middle market companies, both public and private, delivering both accounting and auditing services.

MaloneBailey collaborates with more than 190 publicly listed companies, and audit services are offered under AICPA, SEO, PCAOB and CPAB rules and regulations.

For 30 years, MaloneBailey has been working with clients in the wake of economic ups and downs, as well as constantly changing regulatory environments, which gives them the experience and expertise to provide accurate, high-level service to SEC-reporting companies.

# **Key Factors That Enabled This Firm to Rank as One of the Top 2016 Accounting Firms**

We'll explore some of our criteria that led to our decision to name MaloneBailey as one of 2016's top 11 accounting firms in Houston.

#### Niche Knowledge and Experience

One of the most distinctive aspects of MaloneBailey, and a primary reason we selected it for our list of the best accounting firms in Houston, is because of their focus on mid-cap and micro-cap SEC-regulated companies.

MaloneBailey has, through their unique experience, created best-in-class methodologies to deliver public company audits that are efficient, accurate, and cost-effective.

They specialize in SEC reviews so clients know they're going to receive the best possible guidance. This has led this Houston accounting firm to become one of the largest SEC companies in the country.

#### Full-Service Partnerships

Despite their specialized services, MaloneBailey always delivers full-service partnerships in each and every client interaction.

Partner involvement is integrated at every stage of client engagement, and the holistic approach means clients receive not only accuracy and timeliness, but also complete focus on their needs.

As part of this full-service partnership approach, clients receive the following benefits:

- Client communication is constant throughout the year, not just at key times or the end of the year.
- When regulatory or industry changes happen that could impact a client, clients are notified proactively.
- As a client may have issues or questions that arise, someone from their team is always available to discuss them.

The key components of the partnership with clients at MaloneBailey are quality, responsiveness, and reliability.

This approach is dubbed "Beyond Numbers," and it's what allows this Houston accounting firm to be customer-centric.

#### **Agility and Efficiency**

While MaloneBailey offers the knowledge, expertise, and specialization of a big firm, they provide service that feels intimate and more like what you would get from a boutique accounting agency.

This unique approach lets the team quickly identify and solve issues as they may arise, and there's a proactive problem-solving framework that's pivotal to their delivery.

At the same time, there isn't a traditional hierarchy; communication is proactive and constant. This means MaloneBailey can be agile and efficient in their delivery without bureaucratic constraints.

#### A Foundation of Quality

At the heart of everything MaloneBailey does is attention to detail and quality. The partners and staff work together always to have an accurate, up-to-date understanding of SEC interpretations and regulations.

To ensure consistent quality, MaloneBailey undergoes an annual Public Company Accounting Oversight Board inspection, which is meant to oversee the auditors of public companies, to protect investors and public interest.

The board that conducts the review is made up of five members appointed by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

### **McConnell & Jones LLP Review**

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Located in Houston, TX, McConnell & Jones is an accounting firm addressing the needs of local, national, and international clients. Since 1987, this Houston accounting firm has been providing assurance and tax services to both public and private sector organizations.

McConnell & Company was launched by Ira Wayne McConnell at his kitchen table, with the goal of creating a firm with comprehensive services and a hands-on approach.

Initially, services included assurance, internal audit outsourcing, tax, and financial planning. It now includes all aspects of business management, as well as process improvement and risk management services.

McConnell & Jones ranks in the top 1 percent of U.S. accounting firms offering audits for employee benefit plans.

# **Key Factors That Led Us to Rank This Firm as a Top 2016 Accounting Firm**

We've compiled some leading factors contributing to our decision to rank McConnell & Jones as one of 2016's top 11 accounting firms in Houston.

#### <u>Professional Memberships</u>

In accounting, membership in professional organization shows particular expertise, a vast available network, and a high level of prestige.

McConnell & Jones demonstrates all these characteristics through their many memberships with exclusive professional organizations, which include:

- The American Institute of CPAs (AICPA)
- Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB)
- Private Companies Practice Section (PCPS)
- The Institute of Internal Auditors
- Association of Government Accountants
- Government Finance Officers Association

#### **Business Process Improvement**

One of the service areas unique to this accounting firm in Houston is Business Process Improvement. BPI services aim to create and implement processes for clients' businesses that are in line with larger strategic business objectives.

This service is tailored primarily to the needs of school districts and government entities, and the goals of business process improvement services from McConnell & Jones are to minimize risk, improve efficiency, and uncover new opportunities, all while cutting costs whenever possible.

When clients partner with McConnell & Jones for BPI services, they will see improved productivity and returns on investment.

Within the larger category of BPI services are:

- Management performance reviews and assessments
- Reviews and evaluations of existing operations
- Structure and process improvements over the organization

#### **Industries Served**

McConnell & Jones tailors their offerings to specific industries to provide specialized quality and expertise.

They have a thorough understanding of the challenges and regulations facing these industries.

#### Industries include:

- Education
- · Energy and utilities

- Federal, state, and local government
- Nonprofits
- · Oil and gas

#### The Knowledge Institute

Along with forming valuable partnerships with clients, McConnell & Jones also strives to deliver knowledge, information, and an educational basis for decision-making that is valuable for clients.

Their Knowledge Institute is a signature offering, available on the company website, which provides not only news and information regarding financial topics but also tips and guidelines.

You can find information regarding general business news, financial planning, stock market news, technology updates, whitepapers, and a "Tip of the Month."

### **Melton & Melton LLP Review**

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Created in 1963, Melton & Melton is one of the largest locally-owned accounting firms in Houston.

For more than 50 years Melton & Melton has continued to grow and strengthen their reputation as one of the leading accounting firms in Houston because of their dedication to the development of personal client relationships and a focus on honesty and integrity.

The Melton & Melton team consists of highly knowledgeable professionals who are not only CPAs but also bring to the table specific industry expertise. The leadership team is divided into two primary areas: tax and audit.

# **Key Factors Considered When Ranking This Firm as a Top 2016 Accounting Firm**

When considering Melton & Melton, the below factors weighed in our decision to select them as one of the top 11 accounting firms in Houston.

#### MSI Global Alliance

Melton & Melton is a member of MSI Global Alliance, which is important because it allows members of this local firm to reach to outside resources to gain insight into cutting edge best practices and valuable expertise.

MSI Global Alliance is a group of independent international accounting and legal firms that share information and advisement with one another. There are currently more than 250 firms that are members, located in more than 100 countries.

As a result, Melton & Melton can combine localized, personal attention with breadth in knowledge and skills you would typically find at a national accounting firm.

#### Talent Management

One of the essential elements of Melton & Melton's business strategy is their view that their people are their biggest asset and are worth investing in. This contributes to better service and relationships with clients.

Melton promotes the following elements as part of their employee management strategy:

- Work-life balance
- A commitment to both professional and personal development
- The opportunity to work with diverse clients
- Direct, regular interaction with partners
- Extensive rewards, benefits, and competitive compensation

#### **Advanced Technology**

Along with relying on skills and expert knowledge, Melton & Melton backs all client services with advanced technology, as well as continuous education and training.

This is important because it ensures efficiency, cutting edge solutions and an innovation-driven approach to accounting and tax issues.

Advanced technology implementation also allows Melton & Melton to make sure communication is continual with clients. This is a Houston accounting firm that aims to go beyond the status quo and remain versatile in their approach.

#### Year-Round Assistance

Melton & Melton is unique because their team is in contact with clients yearround, rather than only contacting clients during periods leading up to tax filing deadlines.

This allows for long-term planning and tax strategies to be put in place, rather than the making of hasty decisions which can lead to unexpected situations.

The tax department consists of planners, researchers, and compliance experts who work throughout the year to monitor regulatory environments at the federal, state, and local level.

Tax services for individuals and businesses include:

- Compliance: Federal and state income tax returns
- Tax planning strategies: organizational structure, tax minimization, asset protection, mergers and acquisitions
- IRS representation
- Estate and gift tax
- Cost segregation studies

#### Value Creation for Business

When working with business owner clients, the goal of Melton & Melton's approach is always to design strategies that will create value.

This begins by first working to gain a complete view of a business, as well as the industry and environment in which it operates.

Then, once that understanding is developed, it's paired with technology and advanced planning, all of which lead to better internal controls, improvements in cash flow, and better operational efficiency.

The value-creating services available to business clients include:

- Audits
- Reviews
- Compilations
- Agree-upon procedures
- Forecasts and projections

### Pannell Kerr Forster P.C. Review

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Pannell Kerr Forster (PKF) is a company of CPAs and professional advisors based in Houston, offering tailored solutions for every step of a business's growth cycle. PKF works with both public and private companies, as well as those organizations with domestic and global interests.

Clients are also from within a diverse array of industry sectors, and the goal of each relationship is to establish a sense of productivity and mutual benefits for everyone involved.

PKF has been one of the leading accounting firms in Houston for more than 29 years and is managed by leaders who are energetic, insightful, and excited about every area of service they provide to clients.

# **Key Factors That Led to Our Ranking of This Firm as a Top 2016 Accounting Firm**

Below are elements of PKF's approach and structure that led to their selection as one of 2016's top 11 accounting firms in Houston.

#### **International Accounting Services**

While PKF may be a respected local accounting firm in Houston, they have extensive international reach.

Their international personnel speak more than 20 languages and are specialists in helping businesses in a variety of industries be more successful in a globalized market.

PKF boasts connections in 125 countries, and specific international services include:

- International Tax
- International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS)
- International Healthy Start designed to help entrepreneurs during the business startup phase
- Port related advisement

#### Simplexity Services

One area that makes this firm distinctive is their Simplexity Services and Consulting. This signature approach is designed to create simple ends by complex means.

Simplexity services are designed to provide value-added consulting, to balance conflicts of interest, and to manage resource limitations.

These services are intended to meet the needs of publicly traded and privately held companies seeking an option away from their primary provider of auditing or tax services, whether for a particular project or when there is a conflict of interest with their current CPA firm.

#### Joint Venture

Joint Venture Strategic Advisors is a project brought about through a collaboration with Catalyst, PKF Texas, and Joint Venture Management Inc. with the goal of delivering both management and consulting services to joint ventures and similar operations around the world.

This strengthens the ability to address specifically the needs of the oil, gas, and global energy markets, which are especially relevant in the Houston area.

This venture delivers the utmost in knowledge and experience, allowing PKF to tackle even the most difficult of challenges faced by energy companies in the current marketplace.

#### Stages of Business

Uniquely, this Houston accounting firm places significant emphasis on understanding the stages of business their clients are in and honing their services in on whatever that stage may be.

The primary stages of business addressed by PKF services include:

- Startup/planning
- Growing
- Improving
- Financing
- Transitioning

The philosophy at PKF is that if you know what stage your business is in at any given time, you're better prepared to create the best strategies and execute those plans in the right way.

## **Weinstein Spira Review**

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This Houston-based CPA and business advisory firm features offerings to help businesses and individuals with full-service financial needs including tax, audits, and business management as well as wealth transfer, planning, and estate tax requirements.

As one of the most respected accounting firms in Houston, Weinstein Spiraoffers more than 50 years' experience and a strong connection to the local community.

# **Key Factors That Led to the Naming of This Firm as a Top 2016 Accounting Firm**

Below is a list of some of our detailed reasons for selecting Weinstein Spira as a top 2016 accounting firm in Houston.

#### <u>Affiliations</u>

Weinstein Spira aims to provide only the best to clients, which is why they are affiliated with accounting and finance professional associations. These memberships allow them to stay on the cutting-edge of everything in the industry, ensuring they're always delivering optimal solutions to clients.

#### Their affiliations include:

- Association for Accounting Marketing
- AGN International
- The American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)
- Alliance of Merger and Acquisition Advisors
- Canadian Club of Houston
- Commercial Finance Association (CF)
- Greater Houston Women's Chapter of Commerce
- Women's Finance Exchange

#### Services for Businesses and Individuals

Weinstein Spira offers services not only to businesses of all scopes but also individuals. Regarding operational business services, these include tax, assurance, succession planning, and employee benefit plans.

The business team stays ahead of any and all trends, laws, and regulations that could potentially impact clients.

The individual services aimed at personal finances include tax return preparation, tax and estate planning, and family office services for high-networth individuals.

#### Corporate Culture

Since 1962 Weinstein and Spira has worked to be a leader not only in their accounting and financial services but also their community while maintaining a sense of honesty and integrity.

They build personal relationships with clients that extend beyond the office, and even span from generation to generation.

These relationships are bolstered by a corporate culture centered on transparency and constant attention to the utmost in ethical operations.

#### **Industries Served**

While team members and partners at Weinstein Spira have specialization in their focused industry areas, the diversity of associates and employees makes it possible for this Houston accounting firm to serve the needs of many industries.

The Weinstein Spira client base includes the following industries:

- Oil field services
- Technology companies
- Auto dealerships
- Distributors
- Manufacturing
- Professional services
- Real estate
- Restaurants and hospitality
- Retail

### Conclusion—Top 11 Accounting Firms in Houston, TX

As we compiled the above list of the best accounting firms in Houston, we hoped to provide business owners and individuals with in-depth information that will allow them to choose a firm to partner with while cultivating a long-lasting relationship.

When you're working with an accountant, whether for business or personal reasons, it's one of the most critical aspects of managing your complete financial picture.

The above firms take the important role of an accountant seriously, and we highlighted those unique features and elements that elevate a CPA or accounting firm to become a leader at what they do.

The names above are not only respected in Houston; often, they are known and respected throughout the country and the world for their ethical reputations, holistic approach to business, and their desire to help clients succeed.

If you have questions, comments, or tips about this "Top 11 Accounting Firms in Houston" article, send us an email.

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