

Top 12 Best Accounting Firms in Austin, Texas

2016 RANKING OF TOP ACCOUNTING FIRMS

Finding the Top Accounting Firms in Austin, Texas, U.S.

Taking the complex and making it simple. Turning finances into something manageable. Creating value. Taking tax and accounting issues and ensuring they're effortless. These should be the goals of a professional accounting firm.

When you're considering the accounting firms in Austin, TX, you likely want to work with a firm that boasts not only a strong reputation and years of experience but also Austin accountants that are innovative problem-solvers who are willing to look outside traditional confines and create valuable solutions for their clients.

It's with those goals in mind that we created this ranking of the top CPA firms in Austin. These firms represent a dedication to client-driven service, high levels of professionalism, and quality delivery.

At the same time, while they're experts at what they do, they're always looking beyond the obvious to find ways to help their clients save money and meet their present and future goals.



AdvisoryHQ's List of the Best Accounting Firms in Austin, Texas

- [Bounds Chatelain & Pharr](#)
- [Carpenter and Langford](#)
- [Holtzman Partners LLP](#)
- [Maxwell Locke & Ritter](#)
- [Meador & Jones LLP](#)
- [Phillips Anker, PC](#)
- [Powell, Ebert & Smolik](#)
- [Salley & Clements, PC](#)
- [Scalco Johnson Leahy & Dudek, CPAs PLLC](#)
- [Sweeten CPA](#)
- [Threadgill, Ryan and Associates, P.C.](#)
- [W. Hamilton & Co. PLLC](#)

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

Related:

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- [*Can Accounting Firms Request Corrections & Additions to Their Reviews?*](#)

Top 12 Accounting Firms in Austin, Texas

Firm	Location
Bounds Chatelain and Pharr, P.C.	Austin
Carpenter and Langford, P.C.	Austin
Holtzman Partners LLP	Austin
Maxwell Locke & Ritter (MLRPC)	Austin
Meador & Jones, LLP	Austin

Phillips Anker, PC	Austin
Powell, Ebert & Smolik, P.C.	Austin
Salley & Clements, P.C.	Austin
Scalco Johnson Leahy & Dudek CPAs, PLLC	Austin
Sweeten CPA	Austin
Threadgill, Ryan and Associates, PC	Austin
W. Hamilton & Co., PLLC	Austin

Methodology for Selecting Accounting Firms in Austin, Texas

You may wonder how we were able to narrow down the list of top accounting firms in Austin.

The process includes the AdvisoryHQ team looking at public sources with information and details about Austin accounting firms.

Then our signature “Breakthrough Selection Methodology” was applied to create this list of the top 12 accounting firms in Austin, TX.

Click here for a detailed explanation of our methodology: [AdvisoryHQ’s Methodology for Selecting Top Accounting Firms](#).

Detailed Review—Top Ranking Accounting Firms in Austin, TX

After carefully considering Austin accounting firms, we created the following list of the top 12 firms. As you continue reading, you’ll find detailed reviews for each of our picks, as well as specifics of some of the factors we used in our decision-making process.

Bounds Chatelain & Pharr, P.C. Review

Located in Austin, Texas, [Bounds Chatelain & Pharr](#) is a full-service accounting firm, founded in 1981 by the partners Gary Bounds, Ray Chatelain and Gary Pharr.

All of the founding partners are alumni of the University of Texas McCombs School of Business in Austin.

This Austin CPA firm offers a full selection of services including not just tax preparation, but services within all areas of accounting.

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

Listed below are some of the unique elements of Bounds Chatelain & Pharr that led to its ranking as one of the top 12 accounting firms in Austin.

Pricing Breakdown

Bounds Chatelain & Pharr offers [guidance on their price breakdown](#) when you visit their website.

What's unique about their pricing is that while they charge fees based on the amount of time they spend working on an engagement, they also offer clients tips to minimize that time, so you're not overspending on accounting services.

For example, they provide a checklist of things you should do before meeting with them to begin preparing your business income tax return, so they can do the minimal amount of work required to ensure everything is taken care of properly, saving you money when it's billing time.

Longstanding Local Reputation

In Austin, a sense of community connection is very important and that's something this Austin, TX accountant firm brings to the table.

Along with founding members who are alumni of UT-Austin, this is also one of the longest operating CPA firms in Austin.

All of the associates and staff of Bounds Chatelain & Pharr have a deep connection to the community.

Professional Memberships

When ranking the top accounting firms in Austin, one priority was the consideration of memberships in professional associations.

Bounds Chatelain & Pharr is members of both the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, as well as the Austin Chapter of the Texas Society of CPAs.

This ensures they maintain their longstanding professional reputation and uphold the highest standards levels at both the local and the national level.

This also gives them greater access to resources and continuing education and development to ensure they remain at the forefront of the accounting industry.

Full-Service

As mentioned, Bounds Chatelain & Pharr is a full-service Austin accounting firm. These services include:

- Tax services: Return preparation, tax planning, IRS audit representation
- Accounting services: Compiling financial statements, bookkeeping, payroll tax compliance
- Audit and review services: Financial statement audit, financial statement review, inventory observation, internal control review, agreed upon procedure audits
- Consulting services: Information technology consulting, healthcare business management consulting, business valuation, general business planning
- Other services: Payroll processing, personnel evaluation

Carpenter & Langford P.C. Review

For more than 20 years, [Carpenter and Langford](#) has been a reputable accounting, tax and financial services firm working with both individuals and businesses.

This Austin CPA firm is proficient in a broad range of service areas, and their number one priority is the financial well-being of clients.

The [firm was founded in 1991](#) by Jean Carpenter-Backus, CPA and Joe Langford, CPA. Throughout the years, the company has added several more partners, including the addition of Crystal Smith and Brett Laine in 2015.

Key Factors That Led Us to Rank This Firm as a Top 12 2016 Accounting Firm in Austin

Listed below are details of Carpenter & Langford that make it stand out as one of 2016's top accounting firms in Austin, TX.

Tax Services

Carpenter & Langford provides a very diverse and specialized array of tax services. This area of specialization has led to their recognition as a top tax accountant in Austin, TX.

Tax services offered by this CPA in Austin include:

- **Tax planning:** The team can help clients understand the complex tax code and how it applies to their unique situation. They can prepare projections to estimate tax liability and uncover tax savings opportunities.
- **Tax preparation:** Carpenter & Langford offers assistance with preparing and filing both state and federal returns including income tax returns, payroll returns, and sales tax returns.
- **IRS representation:** The firm can help clients by responding to IRS notices and providing representation during audits.

Relationship Longevity

For **more than 20 years**, Carpenter and Langford has remained a top tax account in Austin, TX, as well as one of the more reputable financial services providers, and much of that is due to their focus on the client and the building of valuable, long-term relationships.

Carpenter & Langford strives to provide the high-level service of a national CPA firm, but with a dedication to maintaining a personal approach, where relationships and client satisfaction are central to the process.

Business Advisory Services

The professionals at Carpenter and Langford, one of the top CPA firms in Austin, offer a wide variety of services for business owners of all scales. These business advisory services include:

- **Entity selection:** Selecting a business entity impacts every area of operation, so the Carpenter & Langford team can help new business owners choose the option that will be most advantageous for them in terms of operations and finances.
- **Buying/selling business:** Carpenter & Langford can partner with business clients to provide analysis and preparation of key financial information affecting the buying or selling of a business.
- **Bookkeeping and compilations:** This CPA firm maintains a full-time bookkeeping staff so they can carefully and meticulously document financial activity and deliver statements with both monthly and yearly progress.

Professional Affiliation

Several of the team members at Carpenter & Langford are members of prestigious professional organizations.

Joe D. Langford, CPA, is a managing shareholder of the firm and is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Austin Chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants.

James T. Ragland, a principal and shareholder, is a member of the Austin chapter of the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Brett Laine, a principal and shareholder, is affiliated with the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants, and Business Networking International.

Holtzman Partners Review

Holtzman Partners is a full-service firm of Austin accountants in operation since 2004.

Holtzman Partners was created to fill a need in the area for a public accounting firm that could help companies with audits and also assist them through every area of the business cycle, whether they were a start-up or a large public company.

The focus of Holtzman Partners is on engaging clients and offering them service that addresses their individual needs and objectives.

Key Factors That Enabled This Firm to Rank as a Top 2016 Accounting Firm in Austin, TX

Below are cited relevant factors included in the decision to rank Holtzman Partners one of the top 12 2016 Austin accounting firms.

Mission Statement

The goal of every area of service delivery offered by the team at Holtzman Partners is to make the customer central.

It's with this customer-focused attitude that the Holtzman mission statement was created: "To empower our team to provide exceptional service to clients in every phase of their growth."

The staff at Holtzman doesn't provide tax and accounting services based on their own goals; instead, they approach each engagement from within the framework of what's right for the individual client and their business.

Their business philosophy is devotion to team, clients, and the community. They believe that by providing the right tools, support, and education they can facilitate others' success.

Professional Affiliations

Holtzman Partners is one of the Austin CPA firms with several high-level professional affiliations.

These include:

- Allinial Global
- AICPA (American Institute of CPAs)
- AICPA Employee Benefit Plan Audit Quality Center Member
- Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB)
- Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants

Industry Specialization

Holtzman Partners [works with over 200 clients](#) from a range of industry backgrounds and phases of business growth.

They offer industry expertise and insight in the following areas:

- Construction
- Healthcare
- Manufacturing
- Natural resources
- Non-profit
- Professional services
- Retail
- Technology

Community Involvement

As one of the top-ranking accounting firms in Austin, Holtzman Partners takes the concepts of giving back and community involvement very seriously.

They are a member of Austin Gives, and as part of this organization, they **donate 1% or more** of their pre-tax earnings to philanthropic causes every year.

Some of the organizations supported in 2015 included the Austin Zoo, Opportunity Austin, the Ronald McDonald House and Zilker Theatre Productions.

Maxwell Locke & Ritter Review

Maxwell Locke & Ritter is an accounting, tax, and consulting firm that works with businesses and individuals, offering a variety of financial services all delivered with the clients' objectives in mind.

Maxwell Locke & Ritter has been a longstanding part of Central Texas, and it holds the distinction of being the **largest locally owned** and managed accounting firm in Austin.

As well as offices in downtown Austin, Maxwell Locke & Ritter maintains offices in Round Rock.

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

When narrowing down the top Austin accountants, below are some of the factors leading to the inclusion of Maxwell Locke & Ritter as one of 2016's top 12 accounting firms in Austin.

Awards

Over the years, this Austin, TX, accountant firm has been the [recipient of many awards](#). Some of the more recent awards include recognition by the Austin Business Journal as one of the best places to work, as well as one of the healthiest employers in Central Texas.

Other honors have come from Inside Public Accounting, citing Maxwell Locke & Ritter as one of the best of the best and an All-Star Firm.

The Austin Chamber of Commerce Greater Austin Business Awards have recognized the firm for customer service and community relations, and the Samaritan Counseling Center named Maxwell Locke & Ritter as a leader in the business category.

Core Values

At Maxwell Locke & Ritter, the goal is always to provide exceptionally high-quality service in a casual, approachable atmosphere.

Their core values follow this concept and include the following:

- Open communication is encouraged
- The environment is cultivated so that people are motivated through empowerment instead of fear
- Competency, compassion, and courtesy are pivotal to client service
- The firm works to always maintain commitments
- Maxwell Locke & Ritter is an active part of the local community

Online Client Portal

This high-ranking Austin accounting firm integrates convenience and technology into their services through the implementation of the online Client Portal.

The Client Portal allows users to log in and view all pertinent files and information simply by visiting the Maxwell Locke & Ritter website.

You can send files through Hightail, and this online tool also includes access to the TaxNotebook, which is a simplified online tax organizer.

If users have questions about using the TaxNotebook, the firm has compiled a list of frequently asked questions.

Diverse Services

This reputable Austin accounting firm doesn't just specialize in one area; it is truly a full-service firm that can help clients with a wide range of financial services and areas of expertise.

Services offered by Maxwell Locke & Ritter include:

- **Audit:** The team of accounting professionals won't just express opinions; they will delve deeply into a client's full financial picture and offer a critical and value-creating perspective.
- **Tax:** These Austin accountants will help individuals, trusts, estates, partnerships, and other entities remain compliant, meet deadlines, and monitor the tax code.
- **Consulting:** Maxwell Locke & Ritter becomes a reliable partner and business advisor for clients, offering creative solutions to complex problems.

Other services offered by this Austin CPA firm include due diligence, family office, wealth management, and retirement.

Meador & Jones, LLP Review

Serving the local community since 1985, [Meador & Jones](#) is a locally owned Austin accounting firm that approaches client service by building lasting relationships.

The accounting team at Meador & Jones works with both business and individual clients to develop innovative solutions to tax and financial issues.

The firm offers a personalized approach to accounting that allows them to gain a full and comprehensive picture of their clients' finances in order to deliver objective service.

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

When comparing Austin accounting firms, the following are some of the distinctions leading to the selection of Meador & Jones as one of the top 12 2016 accounting firms in Austin.

Financial Tools

To help provide clients with a complete perspective of their finances, and also to assist them in planning and understanding financial issues more completely, Meador & Jones compiled a variety of [online financial tools](#), which are available on their website.

Some of these financial tools include:

- Car loan calculator
- Lease vs. buy
- Checkbook balancer
- Home budget analysis
- College savings
- Life insurance calculator
- Mortgage payoff
- Retirement pension planner
- 1040 tax calculator

Multistate Advisement

Meador & Jones is one of the unique accounting firms in Austin because they deliver service that's localized to the community and specific to the needs of local businesses and individuals, but they also provide multistate advisory services.

Multistate tax compliance and planning is a regular part of what Meador & Jones does for clients so they can determine factors such as registration requirements, sales tax, income tax, and payroll, even if they operate across multiple states.

Continuing Development

The financial, tax, and regulatory industry are constantly changing at both the state and federal level. That's why it's so important for CPAs to be continually educated and trained as new issues and regulations arise.

This is something the team at Meador & Jones is committed to.

They regularly participate in not only research and continuing education, but they also take part in the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants' quality review program and have always received the highest possible rating from these reviews.

Accounting Services

Along with tax services, diverse accounting services are a critical part of what Meador & Jones does. They provide audits, reviews, and compilations that include innovative and objective solutions to improve profitability and efficiency.

Additional accounting services offered by this leading Austin accounting firm include:

- General ledger and financial statement preparation
- Bookkeeping
- Accounting system setup for new businesses
- Computerized payroll
- Business tax return preparation including sales and use and business property
- Personal financial statements
- Litigation support

Phillips Anker, PC Review

Phillips Anker is a full-service Austin accounting firm serving a range of financial and business needs.

Phillips Anker has been serving the needs of Austin-area **clients since 1954**, for both businesses and individuals, and their services range from basic tax management to complex financial and forensic accounting.

This firm of Austin CPAs strives to provide service that's objective, proactive, and problem-solving, and those are essential components that have led to their longevity in the industry.

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

Cited below are some of the pertinent reasons Phillips Anker was selected as one of the top 12 accounting firms in Austin.

Female Leadership

The leadership team of Phillips Anker is predominantly female, which allows them to offer a diverse approach and perspective.

Shareholder Jamie Phillips has been working [with the firm since 1994](#), and before that she was with a large firm in Houston. She has experience in areas including small business planning, tax compliance, and estate tax, and she received her BBA in accounting from Texas A&M.

Erin Anker is also a shareholder who's worked with the firm since 2001, while Elizabeth Murdock and Laurie Cobb are employees with decades of public accounting experience.

Other female employees and members of leadership at Phillips Anker include Tamia Simons, Becky Fogle, and Karin Berd.

Financial Guides

In an effort to empower clients in their financial decisions, Phillips Anker provides a variety of useful financial tools and guides.

They've created comprehensive guides to cover some of the most commonly asked about financial areas, and these guides include:

- Banking
- Business
- General financial
- Insurance
- Life events
- Taxes

Their website also includes tax tools, guides, and tips.

Services

While service is highly personalized and tailored at Phillips Anker, the service offerings are broad and diverse—and always provided with the utmost attention to constantly evolving regulations.

Services include:

- Tax management
- Assurance and advisory
- Estate and trust planning and tax preparation
- Litigation support
- Forensic accounting
- Bookkeeping/write-up
- Accounting software selection, implementation and support
- Accounting services
- Payroll services
- Business valuation
- IRS representation
- Entity selection and restructuring
- Computer consulting

Online File Sharing

For customers who want to securely and conveniently access their financial files, documents and tax information at any hour, Phillips Anker offers a secure online client portal.

This offers clients the opportunity to upload and download files, even with sensitive information, and they can be shared with their tax professional.

This makes it easy to seamlessly manage documents, even for very busy clients, and everything is conveniently located in one centralized place.

Powell, Ebert & Smolik, P.C. Review

Powell, Ebert & Smolik is an Austin CPA firm [founded in 1992](#) by Big Four accounting firm partners Daniel B. Powell II, Vernon J. Ebert, and Jim B. Smolik when they brought their practices together.

Robert A. Schriber became a shareholder in 1996, and during the firm's history, they have consistently grown and become one of the largest locally owned Austin CPA firms.

The firm's principals boast an impressive 90 combined years' experience and have a [combined 50 years' experience](#) with Big Four firms.

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

Highlighted below are characteristics leading Powell, Ebert & Smolik to its selection as one of 2016's top 12 accounting firms in Austin.

Professionals from Diverse Backgrounds

To provide the most robust and diverse level of service to each and every client, all of the Austin accountants employed by Powell, Ebert & Smolik have a distinctive background and area of expertise.

The firm employs [25 five tax professionals](#), and their service areas range from traditional accounting to specialized consulting in a variety of expert areas.

Some of these specialty areas include business valuation, consulting services for closely held business, estate and gift taxation, and local taxation.

Personal Approach

While the breadth of knowledge and expertise may be extensive at Powell, Ebert & Smolik, this is a firm of Austin accountants that maintains its sense of personalized attention and service with each client engagement.

Clients will find their team of tax professionals is highly accessible and stays in continual communication with them throughout the year, all while coming up with creative and uniquely tailored solutions to a range of financial complexities and issues.

Community Engagement

A significant aspect of Powell, Ebert & Smolik's dedication to upholding the highest ethical and quality standards, as well as maintaining their longstanding reputation in the Austin area, includes a focus on community service.

Some of the organizations the firm and its employees have been recently involved with include:

- Austin Rotary Club
- The Dell Children's Hospital Foundation
- Catholic Diocese of Austin
- United Way-Austin
- Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation
- Young Men's Business League
- CASA
- The Women's Chamber of Commerce
- Caritas

Newsletters and Updates

An essential aspect of remaining on top of tax and financial issues, whether you're a business or an individual, is making sure to stay updated on changes in law and regulation.

It's with that in mind that Powell, Ebert & Smolik offers regularly released newsletters that provide clients with all the information they need to answer frequently asked questions and also to understand the newest updates in the tax code.

Some of the recent newsletter topics available from this Austin, TX, accountant include:

- "FBAR, Form 8938 Filings Increase as Taxpayers Become More Aware of Reporting Requirements"
- "IRS Focuses on New Partnership Audit Rules"
- "How Do I Set Up a Like-Kind Exchange"
- "FAQ: What Is the Roth IRA Contribution Limit for 2016"
- "April 2016 Tax Compliance Calendar"

Salley & Clements P.C. Review

A full-service Austin CPA firm, [Salley & Clements](#) works to build professional, supportive relationships and serve the tax and accounting needs of both businesses and individuals.

The firm includes professionals who have wide-reaching experience in tax advisement and accounting, and they operate based on core principles including professionalism, responsiveness, and quality.

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

Below are some of the unique features of Salley & Clements leading to its inclusion as one of 2016's top 12 accounting firms in Austin.

Professional Affiliation

As part of the mission to provide the highest possible level of service—along with confidentiality and a modern, innovative, and ethical approach to client engagement—this Austin accounting firm is a member of three professional organizations, all of which are prestigious and expand their resources.

These affiliations include:

- The Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants
- AICPA
- SiPC

SiPC is a specialty organization, the Securities Investor Protection Corporation, that is federally mandated and provides guidance and oversight to most U.S.-based broker-dealers. It protects against the loss of cash and securities held by a client.

Approach

Salley & Clements clearly outlines the approach taken with each client engagement. This approach includes the following principles:

- The team puts themselves in the shoes of their client and asks what they would want if they were in that client's present position.
- Timeliness is essential. Rather than scrambling to meet deadlines at the last minute, the accountants and administrative team at Salley & Clements make sure they're always well ahead of deadlines, without prompting from clients.
- At Salley & Clements, clients are assured their team will act as their personal representative whether that's with the IRS or any other

organization.

- Peace of mind includes the concept that Salley & Clements doesn't just fill out forms, but really represents each client to provide a sense of comfort and security.
- Client phone calls and communication are welcome as accessibility is a central tenant of their approach.

QuickBooks Services

With an eye toward technology and its importance in modern accounting, one of the specialized service areas offered by Salley & Clements involves working with QuickBooks.

Whether a business is in the start-up phase and is starting from scratch, or is established and looking for a new way to handle their accounting and bookkeeping, a team member from Salley & Clements can help them seamlessly implement the use of QuickBooks.

On the website of this top Austin, TX, accountant, users will also find guides, shortcuts, and accuracy tips for using QuickBooks.

Tax Center

Salley & Clements has created an intensive tax center, available on their website. Here you'll find a wide variety of tools, calculators, and guides.

Some of the features available in the tax center include:

- Federal and state refund tracking
- A record retention guide
- 1040 tax estimator
- Important tax due dates
- Tax forms and publications
- State tax forms
- Marginal tax rates guide

**Scalco Johnson Leahy & Dudek, CPAs
PLLC Review**

Scalco Johnson Leahy & Dudek is an Austin CPA firm offering an array of tax, accounting, and consulting services.

This Austin accounting firm has been helping clients in the area since 1994, and central to service provision is a family-like atmosphere, as well as personalized, one-on-one attention.

SJL&D serves clients across many diverse industries, and they specialize in federal and state tax guidance for businesses and individuals.

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

The following are details of why Scalco Johnson Leahy & Dudek was included in this ranking of the top 12 accounting firms in Austin.

Values and Approach

This locally owned and operated tax accountant in Austin, TX, operates from within the following values and approach to service:

- Everything is tailored to the client's individual needs.
- Services are always performed with quality and client satisfaction in mind.
- The solutions are positive and client-driven, as well as cost-effective.
- Services are performed by a qualified and experienced person who knows that accounting goes beyond simply filling out a tax return or compiling a statement.

Services for Individuals

Uniquely, as one of the top CPA firms in Austin, SJL&D also offers service to individuals so that you can centralize all of your financial needs with one firm.

This team of professional Austin accountants can help individual clients achieve the following goals:

- Saving enough for retirement
- Accurately estimating how much money will be needed to pay for their children's education
- Planning for unforeseen emergency situations and making sure enough money is saved to protect your family
- Meeting investment objectives
- Planning to maximize the value of your estate through tax savings and other tactics

Guides

In an effort to truly create a partnership that empowers clients, SJLD has put together in-depth guides to a variety of financial issues facing both businesses and individuals.

Some of their many guide topics include:

- Tax Planning for Small Businesses
- 7 Biggest Misconceptions Business Owners Have About Their Returns
- 7 Ways to Save Even More Income Taxes
- Turn Your Vacation into a Tax Deduction
- The Home Office Deduction
- Retirement Plan Options for Small Business
- The SIMPLE Plan: A Retirement Plan for the Really Small Business

Interpersonal Skills

When SJL&D is hiring new Austin CPAs and administrative professionals, they look for something that sets them apart: communication and interpersonal skills.

Their employees are highly skilled in many areas of accounting, taxes, and finances, but the fact that they're also engaging and interpersonal helps them build stronger, more valuable relationships with the client.

The development of long-term relationships is extremely important to the lasting success of Scalco Johnson Leahy & Dudek as one of the top accounting firms in Austin, TX.

Sweeten CPA Review

Sweeten CPA is a small, personal Austin accounting firm that approaches their work in a unique way and has built a strong area reputation because of their one-on-one attention to clients.

The motto of this Austin CPA firm is "Sweeten CPA: Accounting Doesn't Have to Be a Sour Experience," and all of the members of the firm work to deliver service that's not only innovative regarding financial solutions but also in the way they create relationships with clients.

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

In the list below are details of why Sweeten CPA was chosen as one of 2016's top 12 accounting firms in Austin.

Fresh Approach to Accounting

Often when clients think of accounting, they think of something that's dry, complicated, and unenjoyable.

While Sweeten CPA maintains the highest level of professionalism in their service approach, they also strive to work differently and create bonds and relationships with their clients that make it enjoyable.

They seek out innovative financial and accounting solutions for clients and deliver them in a way that's friendly and personal.

Order and Clarity

The mission statement at Sweeten CPA is to bring order and clarity to the financial lives of their clients.

By this they mean:

- **Order:** Sweeten's team partners with clients to help them create simplified, streamlined bookkeeping and financial systems that are timely and easy to maintain.
- **Clarity:** Rather than only filling out paperwork or meeting tax deadlines, this top CPA firm in Austin makes sure their clients enjoy analysis and insight that paves the way for them to plan for taxes, growth, and stability.
- **Lives:** The team strives to treat each client with respect and kindness, as well as an individual with specific, unique needs.

Female Leadership

This group of professional Austin CPAs is predominantly female. Michele Sweeten, CPA, founded the firm on her own in 2002, and since then she has grown it to include **16 CPAs, accountants, and bookkeepers.**

She now has more than 400 individual and small business clients, and she's a member of Business Networking International and the Westlake Chamber of Commerce.

Services

Uniquely, the service offerings provided by Sweeten are broken up into pricing categories including "Small Return," "Medium Return," "Large Return," "Very Small Return," and Corporation, S-Corporation, and Partnership.

There is also pricing for non-profit annual federal returns, state income tax returns outside of Texas, and Texas long forms.

In addition, there are hourly services, priced depending on who you work with and what your needs are.

The services are very clearly broken down into understandable categories, as is the billing, so you don't have to worry about there being uncertainty in how you're billed as a client of Sweeten.

Threadgill, Ryan and Associates, P.C. Review

As a leading firm of Austin CPAs, [Threadgill, Ryan and Associates](#) is a local firm created in 1984, operating with the goal of helping clients remain financially viable.

They always strive to maintain the highest levels of service and professionalism.

The firm was founded by University of Texas at Austin graduate Marcia Threadgill, who is now retired. It currently [operates under the leadership](#) of shareholders Janet C. Ryan, CPA, CFP, and Cassandra T. Anderson, CPA.

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

Highlighted in the detailed list below are a few of the reasons Threadgill, Ryan and Associates was selected as one of 2016's top 12 accounting firms in Austin.

Proactivity

When helping clients with their taxes and financial issues, often the best approach is one that's proactive, and that's central to service delivery from Threadgill, Ryan and Associates.

They strive to offer guidance, insight, and solutions that are dynamic in nature through analysis of client needs as well as in-depth research.

This proactive approach allows this Austin accounting firm to offer clients sound present guidance while also helping them to plan for a prosperous future.

Spanish-Speaking Staff

Along with having a leadership team headed by female shareholders and CPAs, this Austin CPA firm also employs Jose M. Vela, who is [fluent in Spanish](#).

He is licensed by the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy as a Certified Public Accountant, and he has more than 14 years of tax experience.

Jose can broaden the client base and communications of the firm and provide a larger number of potential clients with high-quality accounting and tax services.

Services

As one of the very well-respected accounting firms in Austin, TX, Threadgill, Ryan and Associates offers expertise and specialization across a wide selection of services and caters to both individuals and businesses in many industries.

Services offered by this top Austin CPA firms include:

- Tax management
- Financial and retirement planning
- QuickBooks set-up and guidance
- Bookkeeping
- Financial projects and forecasts
- Estate and trust planning and tax service
- IRS representation
- Entity selection
- Business restructuring
- Cash flow
- Budgeting analysis

Online Resources

While working with Threadgill, Ryan and Associates means you'll receive comprehensive and personalized attention in each service area, they also understand how busy the lives of their clients can be, so they offer many resources and offerings online as well.

This independently owned and operated firm of Austin CPAs offers an online file transfer tool so you can securely exchange documents with your financial professional, as well as online financial guides.

Other online tools include tax tips and rates, due dates, financial calculators, and easy access to necessary IRS forms.

W. Hamilton & Co., PLLC Review

This full-service firm of accountants and business consultants works with business owners, executives, and individuals.

Located in Austin, [W. Hamilton & Co.](#) is an intimate firm of Austin accountants, bringing to the table professionalism, responsiveness, and quality.

The firm is licensed in Texas, and all of the CPAs that work for W. Hamilton have valid Texas State CPA certifications.

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

Highlighted in the list below are some factors that stand out and set W. Hamilton apart as one of 2016's top 12 accounting firms in Austin.

Individual Services

While many of the top CPA firms in Austin offer business services, W. Hamilton also offers specialized services for individuals, so you can bring together your business and personal finances with one top-quality firm.

W. Hamilton's individual services include:

- **Wealth management:** Operating under its own entity called Hamilton Wealth Management, working with the team can help you learn more

about financial management and take advantage of available resources.

- **Estate planning:** This falls under the umbrella of Hamilton Wealth Management as well, and the professionals under the guidance of William Hamilton will help clients preserve and protect their wealth for their family.
- **Eldercare:** Eldercare services are designed to help older adults manage their finances and business duties.

Tax Problems and Complexities

While many accounting firms in Austin offer general tax services, W. Hamilton offers those as well as specialized services geared toward people facing very complex issues or problems with their taxes.

Some of these services include:

- IRS representation
- Non-filed tax returns
- Back taxes owed
- Payroll tax problems
- IRS liens and levies
- IRS wage garnishment and seizures
- Offers in Compromise
- IRS payment plan
- Bankruptcy
- Innocent Spouse Relief

QuickBooks Services

Having the best in technology is essential in today's modern accounting world, and W. Hamilton features a full slate of QuickBooks services with that concept in mind.

Not only can the team help you understand why QuickBooks would be beneficial to your organization, but they can also help you save money when you purchase the program.

Their QuickBooks services include setup and training, as well as troubleshooting and tune-up guidance.

Performance-Driven Business Approach

The key with any business-driven accounting or financial approach is to make sure its focus is on helping that business perform at a peak level.

With that in mind, this Austin accounting firm offers a lineup of business services meant to improve efficiency, keep organizations compliant, and boost revenue and profits.

Business services provided by William & Co. include:

- Compilations
- Internal controls
- Non-profit tax services
- Strategic business planning
- Part-time CFO services
- New business formation
- Succession planning
- Small business accounting
- Cash flow management
- Bank financing
- Payroll

Conclusion—Top 12 Accounting Firms in Austin, TX

As a business owner or an individual, there are few things more important in your life than your finances.

Your financial standing and strategy determine everything from spending to the strength of your business, so why would you partner with an accounting firm that didn't deliver excellence and expertise?

The above ranking of the top accounting firms in Austin, TX, represents how important professionalism and dedication to excellence are.

These Austin accountants have diverse employees, hold prestigious affiliations and certifications, and are independently owned and operated.

They've created strong reputations in the local community, and they work to cultivate strong bonds and relationships with their clients.

The above list represents some of the best and brightest accounting firms in Austin, along with reasons why they were selected for this ranking.

Our hope is that it serves as a useful guide and resource as you go through the process of selecting a CPA in Austin.

If you have questions, comments, or tips about this “Top 12 Accounting firms in Austin” article, send us an **email**.

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