#### **CPA** Practice **Advisor**

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### Brian C. Friedman, CPA, CITP

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### Q&A:

Aside from the accounting websites, which blog/website do you consider a mustread? Hello. It looks like you're using an ad blocker that may prevent our website from working properly. To receive the best experience possible, please make sure any blockers are switched off and refresh the page.

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## change/improve the accounting profession?

I invest my time and energy in growing future leaders. For three years I have been the Sales sponsor of CCH's Emerging Leader program at our CCH Connections User Conference. Each year we select those individuals nominated by their firms as rising stars to participate in our Business Acumen Program. This program has proven to be a tremendous success with those participating and very well received by accounting firms around the country. Additionally, over the years, I have hosted a number of professional user groups to help firms improve their use of technology. Most recently I facilitated a session of 40 accounting firms which included roundtable discussions, keynote speakers, and technology improvements.

#### In what ways do you participate in your local community to help others?

I participate in a number of charitable and philanthropic events to help those less fortunate and in need. Last year, I was personally involved with Delete Blood Cancer by becoming a bone marrow donor. As a family we have assisted local foundations aimed at providing backpacks filled with school supplies so every student has a fair chance to succeed despite their economic circumstances.

# What changes do you foresee in the accounting profession of the near future (3-5 years)?

I expect to see continued cloud migration by firms of all sizes. This will enable firms to focus more on their core expertise and less on having to worry about IT infrastructure. In addition, tools that allow firms to become more productive and efficient by reducing redundant tasks and duplicative work will help to drive increases in profit margins. How do you see yourself participating in shaping the future of the accounting

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by being resourceful, encouraging teamwork, being an active listener and bringing valuable insight to those with whom we engage.

## Describe one person who has been an important mentor to you and how that person helped change your life.

My mentor has challenged me to expand my thought process around decision making and how it impacts not only those immediately surrounding me but to look at it from an organizational perspective. My mentor did not always provide me with answers, however encouraged me to arrive at my own conclusions. This gave me the confidence to be a stronger leader.

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Accounting

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