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PROFESSION

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Jun. 17, 2022



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Arthur J. Dixon Public Service Award

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practice in 1995 while maintaining jobs at two accounting firms, and became certified in 1999.

In 2010, Cohen ventured out on his own to start L.M. Cohen & Co. Cohen states that his firm has “always been more than just a place to prepare tax returns or financial statements; it is our home away from home—a place where we build connections and foster the strong culture that makes me so proud to come to work every day.”

He is actively involved in his community by serving as president of Sephardic Bikur Holim, one of the largest social services agencies in Brooklyn.

NYSSCPA Distinguished Service Award

The Distinguished Service Award salutes CPA members who have set themselves apart as Society leaders through service within the NYSSCPA and the accounting profession. **David Evangelista** and **David A. Lifson** share this honor.

David Evangelista is a graduate of The Wharton School of Business of the University of Pennsylvania and holds a B.S. in economics, with a concentration in accounting. He left one of the top six national accounting firms in 2021 and started David Evangelista, CPA, a boutique CPA firm specializing in tax and accounting services, as well as ERISA advising and consulting services.

In March 2008, the U.S. Secretary of Labor appointed Evangelista to the Advisory Council on Employee Welfare and Pension Benefit Plans (ERISA Advisory Council) for a three-year term. He was appointed by the AICPA in 2003 to the initial Executive Committee of the AICPA EBP Audit Quality Center. He most recently served as a member of the AICPA's Task Force to develop a new multi-employer plan chapter in the AICPA Audit & Accounting Guide for Employee Benefit Plans.

Evangelista is the founding president of the Society's Rockland Chapter and has

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tax, economic and other related constraints, and in dealing with the tax compliance challenges that accompany change.

Lifson is the recipient of the AICPA 2009 Arthur J. Dixon Memorial Award—the accounting profession's highest award in the area of taxation. He was also awarded the Sustained Contribution Award in 2011, which recognizes members of the institute who have contributed measurably to the AICPA and CPA profession through their volunteer services. He has chaired the Tax Executive Committee, served as a member of the AICPA Board of Directors, chaired the AICPA National Tax Conference and many more committees and task forces. He is also a former president of the NYSSCPA and has served in various capacities on its behalf.

Lifson chaired the Small Business and Self-Employed subgroup of the Internal Revenue Service's Advisory Council (IRSAC) during 2010 and 2011, while serving on the council for four years through 2011. IRSAC meets regularly to advise the Commissioner of the IRS and key IRS group leaders on how to effectively administer the tax system. Lifson is a frequently published author, teacher and spokesperson on various tax topics, both nationally and internationally.

Dr. Emanuel Saxe Outstanding CPA in Education Award

This award pays tribute to the contributions of CPAs who have dedicated their life's work to accounting education. **Dr. Nina Terranova Dorata** is a full professor of accountancy at St. John's University, having earned that distinction within seven years of being hired.

Before joining the faculty at St. John's University, Dr. Terranova Dorata taught at SUNY Old Westbury, where she served as chair of the Accounting and Business Law Department. Additionally, Dr. Terranova Dorata taught at St. Joseph's College, where she co-founded their Accounting Society. She has taught numerous courses in

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As the past chair of the Society's Future of Accounting Education Committee, she is passionate about assisting accounting programs' leaders, as they navigate curriculum changes due to the CPA Evolution Model.

Outstanding CPA in Chapter Service Award

The Outstanding CPA in Chapter Service Award recognizes NYSSCPA CPA chapter members who have distinguished themselves as chapter leaders through model service within their chapter, the NYSSCPA and the profession. **Rosemarie A. Giovinazzo-Barnickel** was awarded this honor.

Giovinazzo-Barnickel is a firm owner in Staten Island. She has been a member of the Society since 1988 and is currently a member of the Staten Island Chapter. She is the current Chair of the Society's Professional Liability Insurance Committee, and served on the Society's Board of Directors and on the Executive Committee for many years. Giovinazzo-Barnickel also served on and chaired many statewide and chapter committees over the years. In addition, she has served in many positions on the Staten Island Chapter Board and has also been its president.

After graduating from Pace University, Giovinazzo-Barnickel began her career with 10 years at Coopers & Lybrand—now more commonly known as PwC—before moving into private industry for four years, and then finally starting her own practice 22 years ago. She has followed in the footsteps of her late father's, a former Society member and chapter past president; her son Scott is also a CPA.

Outstanding CPA in Public Practice Award

The Outstanding CPA in Public Practice Award recognizes outstanding service and professional development in public practice. **Antoinette Spina** is a manager at Bailey, Carr, CPAs, P.C.

She became a CPA in 1984 and has over 40 years of experience in taxation and small

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Bar Association and Rochester's Channel 8 news show. She's also spoken at Institute of Management Accountants (IMA) conferences in both the United States and Canada.

Spina is also a member of the AICPA and has served on a local, statewide and global level for the IMA. In 2014, she received the IMA Exemplary Volunteer Award at the IMA's Annual Conference. In addition, the Rochester Chapter's volunteer award was renamed the "Antoinette Spina Award for Exemplary Volunteerism" the year she was its recipient.

Outstanding Statewide Committee Chair Award

The Outstanding Statewide Committee Chair Award is a new award that celebrates the exemplary service and performance in leading a Society's statewide committee. These leaders have all demonstrated full commitment to the goals and mission of the committee, undertook efforts to provide robust content and CPE for their committee members, and excel at committee recruitment and retention. This inaugural award was presented to **Gina Omolon** and **Zhoudi Tang**.

Gina Omolon is a partner at Mazars USA LLP. With over 15 years of public accounting and three years of private practice background, Omolon has extensive experience providing accounting and auditing services to public and nonpublic domestic and foreign entities, primarily in the financial services industry. She worked with clients in addressing complex financial and reporting issues, including mergers and acquisitions, financial instruments, and credit losses and derivatives.

Omolon has led projects for clients in the institutional and retail sector, securities trading, domestic and international banking engagements and broker-dealers. These included attestation engagements, internal audits, consulting projects, including CECL implementation; group audits; asset quality reviews; conversion from IFRS to

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local regulations. He advises clients, with respect to residency, nexus and apportionment issues, with a focus on income and franchise taxes. Tang's industry expertise includes closely held and family businesses. He received his master's degree from the Zicklin School of Business of Baruch College. He is also a contributor to New Jersey CPA magazine.

These members were honored during the Society's Annual Meeting at the Jericho Terrace in Mineola, N.Y. Members of the media interested in covering the honorees should contact Jovan C. Richards, media and government relations manager for the NYSSCPA, at jrichards@nysscpa.org.

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