## **CPA**

## Practice Advisor

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subpar auditing and quality control failures.

Jason Bramwell • Jan. 29, 2024



Top 100 accounting firm Haynie & Co. was fined \$400,000 and two current and two former partners were fined a total of \$190,000 by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) on Jan. 23 for subpar auditing and quality control failures.

The audit regulator found that Haynie partners Tyson Holman and Stevin Avis and ex-partners Anna Hrabova and Richard Fleischman each violated PCAOB rules and standards while serving as either engagement partner or engagement quality review partner on Haynie's 2019 audit of George Risk Industries Inc. or Haynie's 2019 audit of Investview Inc. The PCAOB said the Salt Lake City-based accounting firm also violated PCAOB rules and standards on these 2019 audits, as well as PCAOB quality control standards.

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evaluate whether the financial statements were presented in conformity with the applicable financial reporting framework.

With respect to George Risk's investments, Holman was aware of deficiencies in his testing approach identified during the PCAOB's inspection of Haynie's audit of George Risk's 2017 financial statements. Despite this awareness, he followed a similar deficient testing approach during the 2019 George Risk audit, according to the PCAOB.

In addition, Hrabova and Fleischman—while serving as engagement quality review partners on the 2019 George Risk and Investview audits, respectively—failed to exercise due professional care and professional skepticism. As a result, they lacked an appropriate basis to provide their concurring approvals of Haynie's audit reports being issued, the PCAOB said.

Haynie was found to have violated PCAOB quality control standards because the firm failed to:

- Effectively implement policies and procedures to provide reasonable assurance that the work performed by engagement personnel met applicable professional standards and regulatory requirements; and
- Establish policies and procedures to provide reasonable assurance that Haynie's quality control policies and procedures were suitably designed and were being effectively applied, and that its system of quality control was effective.

Without admitting or denying the findings, Haynie and its current and former partners consented to the PCAOB's sanctions, which included:

• Censures;

• \$65,000 in fines each to Holman and Avis, who also received two-year bars from

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of the PCAOB's Division of Enforcement and Investigations.

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