## Code of Ethics

## For the Members of the

## Georgia Association of Accountants and Tax Professionals

**MEMBERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION** shall not violate the confidential relationship between themselves and their clients for former clients.

**MEMBERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION** shall not offer or render professional services the fee for which shall be contingent upon the findings or results of such services, except in those cases involving federal, state, or other taxes in which the findings are those of the member, or in cases where fees are fixed by courts or other public authorities.

**MEMBERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION** or firm of which they are a partner or shareholder shall not express an opinion of financial statements of an enterprise unless they and the firm are independent of such enterprise. Accordingly, members shall not express and opinion on financial statements of an enterprise financed in whole, or in part, by public distribution of securities or on financial statements for use as a basis of credit or if they or members of their immediate family owns or is committed to acquire a substantial financial interest in the enterprise, or during the period covered by the examination they have been a director, officer or employee of the enterprise unless such interest or relationship is disclosed in the report.

**MEMBERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION** shall not allow any person(s) to practice in their corporate partnership or individual name who is not a partner, professional corporation, coshareholder or in their employ.

**MEMBERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION** who are engaged in the practice of public accounting shall not concurrently engage in any business or occupation which would create a conflict of interest in rendering professional service.

**MEMBERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION** shall be diligent, thorough, and completely candid in expressing an opinion on representations in financial statements which they have examined.

**MEMBERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION** shall not sign a report purporting to express their opinion as the result of an examination of financial statements, unless such statements have been examined by them, or by a member or employee of their firm.

**MEMBERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION** shall not permit their names to be used in conjunction with any special purpose statement prepared for their clients that anticipates results of future operations, unless they disclose the source of the information used and what assumptions they have made, and unless they do not youch for the accuracy of the forecast.

**MEMBERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION** shall not pay a commission to obtain a client, nor shall they accept a commission for a referral to a client of products or services of others.

**MEMBERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION** shall not seek to obtain clients by advertising or other forms of solicitation in a manner that is false, misleading, or deceptive.

**MEMBERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION** in practice as an individual shall not use a firm name or plural term, as "and company" or "and associates" or any other designation indicating anything other than individual ownership.

**MEMBERS OF THIS ASSOCIATION** who receives an engagement for services by referral from another accountant shall not discuss or accept an extension of their services beyond the specific arrangement without first consulting with the referring practitioner.