# NASBA

National Association of State Boards of Accountancy

# 2016 AWARDS PROGRAM









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### BILLY M. ATKINSON, CPA

#### William H. Van Rensselaer Public Service Award

Billy M. Atkinson, CPA, is a retired senior audit partner with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLC (PwC) of Houston, Texas. With over 39 years of public accounting experience, Billy served both public and private companies with local and global reach in manufacturing, distribution, service, energy, technology and not for profit sectors; all representative of the Houston business environment.

In 1999, Billy was appointed to the Texas State Board of Public Accountancy by then Governor George W. Bush and was subsequently appointed by Governor Rick Perry as the Texas Board's presiding officer, from 2003-05, when his six-year board term expired. As a Texas Board member, Billy chaired the Executive, Technical Standards Review Enforcement and the Major Case Enforcement Committees. In addition, he served on the Regulatory Compliance, Behavioral Enforcement and Rules Committees, plus the special Sarbanes-Oxley Task Force in Texas, which successfully reported to the Texas Legislature in 2005 that no such state legislation was needed in Texas.

Billy served as chair of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) from 2009-10, vice chair from 2008-09 and director-at-large from 2004-08. He is a current member and former chair of the NASBA Past Chair Advisory Council, and formerly served as chair of NASBA's Audit, Awards, Education and Nominating Committees. On behalf of NASBA, in 2010-11, Billy served as a sponsoring member of the Financial Accounting Foundation/AICPA/NASBA "Blue Ribbon Panel" on Accounting Standard Setting for Private Companies in the U.S. and often spoke about the topic during its public exposure.

In 2011, he was appointed by the Texas Governor to a six-year term as a board member of the Texas Public Finance Authority. He has chaired this agency since 2013. In 2012, the Financial Accounting Foundation Trustees appointed him to a three-year term as the inaugural chair of its Private Company Council (PCC). His term concluded in December 2015, and numerous accounting standards modifications resulted from the PCC efforts and his leadership.

Billy served as a member of the American Institute of CPAs' (AICPA) Governing Council, from 2003-06, and has had several leadership and board roles in the Texas Society of CPA's where he received the "Meritorious Service to the CPA Profession" award in 2005, its highest acknowledgement. He is a past president of the 10,000 member Houston Society of CPAs, which bestowed him with several awards. In 2013 and 2014, Billy was named by Accounting Today as one of the Top 100 Most Influential People in Accounting in America.

Among other community service activities, he has served on the boards of directors of the Make-a-Wish Foundation of the Texas Gulf Coast for six years, including a term as its chairman, Boys/Girls Harbor for homeless children, and the Houston Society for the Performing Arts.

A graduate of Texas A&M University, Billy served on the Texas A&M President's Advisory Council, from 1998 - 2015, and has been a member of the University's Accounting Department Advisory Council within the College of Business for over 25 years. He also previously served on the advisory board of the College of Business Fellows Program for four years and is both an Eppright Distinguished donor and a Legacy Society donor at Texas A&M. In 2015, the Texas A&M Mays College of Business recognized him as an "Outstanding Alumnus." In 2016, the Texas A&M Department of Accounting named him to their inaugural "Hall of Honor."

Billy and his wife, Donnelle, have established and funded a "Billy M. & Donnelle Atkinson Scholarship in Accounting" at Texas A&M and his firm has likewise established a "Billy M. Atkinson - PricewaterhouseCoopers" scholarship in Accounting at Texas A&M.



# BILLY M. ATKINSON, CPA

### ROBERT B. CAGNASOLLA, CPA

#### NASBA Distinguished Service Award

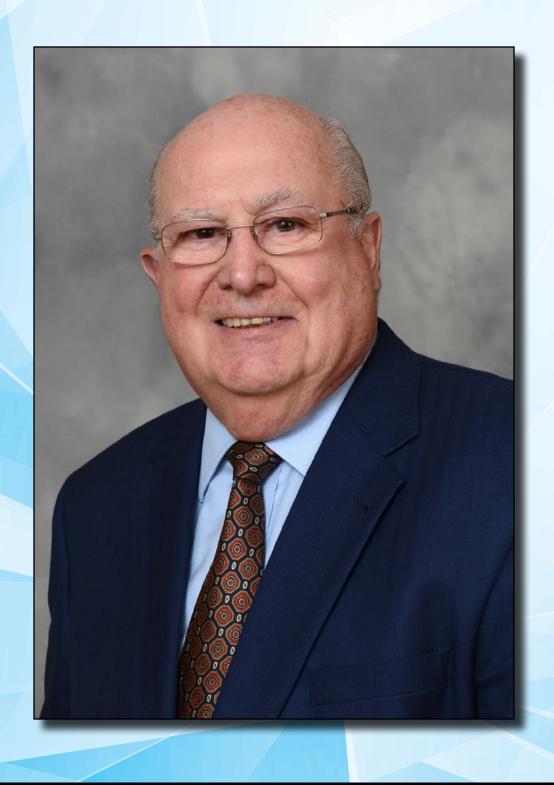
Robert B. Cagnassola, CPA, attended his first NASBA meeting in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1989, and has continued active participation for 27 years. In addition to his years of service on NASBA's Compliance Assurance Committee and Awards Committee, he is particularly honored to have served six years on the Administration and Finance Committee and an additional six years on the Nominating Committee. His dedication to the mission of NASBA is also evident through his support as a founding member of the NASBA Center for the Public Trust (CPT).

Upon graduation from Fairfield University in 1965, Bob joined the New Jersey firm of Suplee, Clooney & Company, Certified Public Accountants (regarded as one of New Jersey's oldest accounting firms) and soon realized his personal goals of becoming a certified public accountant, public school accountant and registered municipal accountant. Partnership followed in January 1977. Presently, he serves as the firm's managing partner, specializing in governmental and not-for-profit accounting and auditing.

In addition to his various professional affiliations, Bob served on the New Jersey State Board of Accountancy for 25 years, having first been appointed by then Governor Tom Kean in May 1987. A former two-term president of the Board, Bob successfully implemented the practice of using standing committees to address major issues of concern to the Board. He continues to serve the Board today as a member of the Board's Peer Review Oversight Committee.

Bob has been an active leader within the accounting profession and within his local community. Besides his fraternal affiliations and various political involvement, Bob was one of the founders of The Town Bank of Westfield, now known as Two River Community Bank. He also served on the Boards of Directors for Spaulding for Children, an adoption agency for the hard-to-place child, the Westfield Neighborhood Improvement Association, Manor Park Swim Club, Saint Helen's Parish Council and its Finance Committee.

Having recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary, Bob and his wife, Betty, are pleased to have been blessed with two sons, Christopher and Phillip, two delightful daughters-in-law, Carrie and Kerri, and four wonderful grandchildren, Jewel, Madelyn, Peter and Ava.



ROBERT B. CAGNASOLLA, CPA

### JIM ABBOTT

#### Lorraine P. Sachs Standard of Excellence Award

Jim Abbott currently serves as the executive director of the North Dakota State Board of Public Accountancy, a role he has held since 1988. With more than 25 years of leadership experience as a non-profit executive, Jim's creativity, organizational ability and strong ethical foundation have positioned him to effectively promote the Board's mission through education, technology and outreach.

Numerous North Dakota accounting regulation changes have been enacted during Jim's tenure, including the passage of a law on a unanimous Senate vote and 89-6 House vote. Also, as a chief proponent of the mobility law, Jim has played a pivotal role in addressing the needs of certified public accountants and the public.

Jim has served on many NASBA and AICPA committees. He is a longtime member of NASBA's Communications Committee and former member of NASBA's Committee Resource Panel, Nominations Process Review Task Force, and the New Horizons, CPE Advisory, Bylaws and Regulatory Structures and Issues Committees, as well as the Administrators Committee where he served as chair from 1995-96. In an effort to foster greater camaraderie among fellow Board of Accountancy executive directors, Jim has been instrumental in facilitating annual group book discussions in conjunction with NASBA's Annual Conference for Executive Directors and Board Staff.

Jim is also a current member of the AICPA State Board Committee and former member of the AICPA CPE Standards Committee.

In addition to his service with the North Dakota Board, Jim also serves as the executive director of the North Dakota CPA Society. Under his leadership, the Society has placed greater emphasis on strategic planning and staying connected with its members, which has resulted in the Society achieving membership retention rates near 100%.

Jim's ability to work well with others has garnered him the respect of fellow executive directors, accountancy regulators and the professional accounting community. His visionary leadership has kept both the North Dakota State Board of Accountancy and the North Dakota CPA Society performing at a high level of service.

A graduate of Ambassador College and the University of North Dakota-Grand Forks, Jim is the past president of the American Heart Association (Grand Forks division), and former president and current member of the Empire Arts Center Board of Directors.



# JIM ABBOTT

### PREVIOUS AWARD WINNERS

#### WILLIAM H. VAN RENSSELAER PUBLIC SERVICE AWARD

Since 1988, candidates for this award are individuals who have earned recognition through their contributions to the public accounting profession. Prior candidates have led the development or improvement of programs for Boards of Accountancy, or influenced passage of rules or statutes to improve accountancy regulations and laws, with the goal of protecting the public.

2015	2008	2001	1994
Samuel K. Cotterell	John B. Peace	Nathan T. Garrett	Lorin H. Wilson
2014	2007	2000	1993
David A Vaudt	Milton Brown	Thomas lino	Douglas Sprague
2013	2006	1999	1992
Diane M. Rubin	Ronnie Rudd	Jerome P. Soloman	Louis W. Dooner
2012	2005	1998	1991
Michael D. Weatherwax	Susan J. Reinardy	C. Hunter Jones	John A. Baker
2011	2004	1997	1990
Sandra A. Suran	John M. Greene	Jerome A. Schine	A. Leighton Platt
2010	2003	1996	1990
K. Michael Conaway	Welling W. Fruehauf	Richard J. Goode	Louis W. Matusiak
2009	2002	1995	1989
Barton W. Baldwin	Noel P. Kirch	Wilbert H. Schwotzer	Robert C. Ellyson

#### NASBA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Since 1999, recipients of this award are individuals who have demonstrated unswerving commitment and dedication to enhancing the mission of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy.

2015	2010	2006	2002
Kenneth R. Odom	Sheila M. Birch	Jimmie Lee Mason	Harris W. Widmer
2014	2009	2005	2001
Richard Isserman	Ellis M. Dunkum	Asa L. Hord	Will J. Pugh
2013	2008	2004	2000
Andrew L. DuBoff	Harold D. Hein	Gerald W. Burns	Bernard Blum
2012	2007	2003	1999
Charles W. Taylor	Charles H. Calhoun	Janice B. Wilson-Marcum	Leon K. Poché
2011			

### LORRAINE P. SACHS STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

Philip W. Gleason

Since 2008, recipients of this award are state board executive staff leaders who show excellence in regulating and make a positive impact on the accounting profession.

2015	2013	2011	2009
Daniel R. Sweetwood	Richard C. Sweeney	Barbara R. Porter	William Treacy
2014	2012	2010	2008
Viki A. Windfeldt	Robert N. Brooks	Daniel J. Dustin	Carol Sigmann



## 2015-2016 AWARDS COMMITTEE

Chair: Carlos E. Johnson (OK)

Members:
Bobby R. Creech, Jr. (SC)
Wanda W. Goodson (GA)
Richard Isserman (NY)
Theodore W. Long, Jr. (OH)
Daniel R. Sweetwood (NE)

Staff Liaison: Cassandra Gray

