

State Board of Certified Public Accountants of Louisiana



Summer 2026

State Board of Certified Public Accountants of Louisiana

BOARD MEMBERS

Lynn Hutchinson, CPA
Letti Lowe-Ardoin, CPA
Michele Avery, CPA
Christie Dunn, CPA
Kandace Mauldin, CPA
Daniel Brown, CPA
Dennis James, CPA

BOARD STAFF

Lisa A. Benefield — Executive Director
Caren L. Singleton — Deputy Director
Bomani Brown — Director of Compliance
Tre Mouriz — Compliance Investigator
Betsy Boudreaux — Licensing Analyst
Jean Palmer — CPE Coordinator
Ramzey Bunley — Accountant
Lauren Brown — Administrative Coordinator

CONTACT US

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FUTURE BOARD MEETINGS

July 31, 2026
November 5-6, 2026
January 7-8, 2027

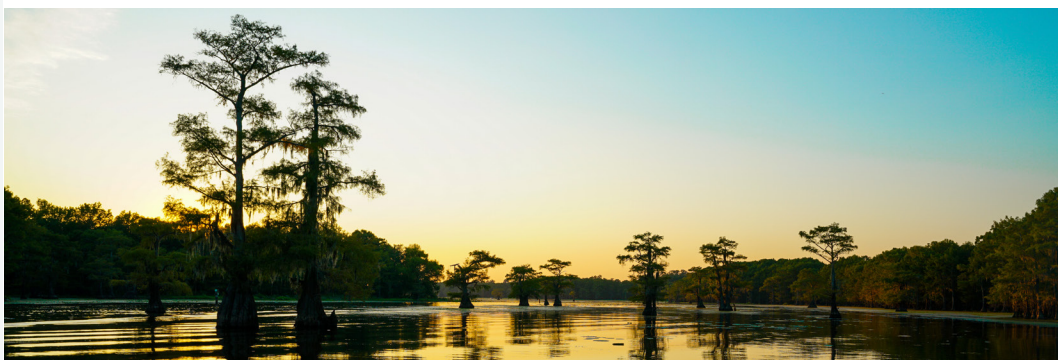


New Pathway, New CPAs & More!

We're excited to share that the Board's pathway legislation, House Bill 548, was signed by Louisiana Governor Jeff Landry on June 2, 2026. The new law, i.e. the third pathway to getting the CPA license, will be effective in Louisiana on August 1, 2026. It gives future CPAs another option by allowing candidates with a bachelor's degree in accounting to sit for the CPA Exam and become licensed through two years of verified work experience. Read more about it, and more, in our summer 2026 newsletter. And don't forget to check out our long list of Louisiana's newly licensed CPAs that have been ratified by the Board at the November, January and April Board Meetings. Congratulations!

Happy Summer!

Sincerely,
Lisa A. Benefield
Executive Director



CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW CPAs

Cody Arnaud	30024	07/30/2025	Peter Allen Vernaci, Jr.	30077	11/12/2025
Ashton Alan Kennedy	30025	07/30/2025	Tobie Jeanne Landry	30078	11/12/2025
Lakin Elizabeth Hawkins	30026	07/30/2025	Blaine Calcagno	30079	11/12/2025
Christopher Davis	30027	08/07/2025	Jacob Kerr	30080	11/13/2025
Madeleine Claire Boudreaux	30028	08/07/2025	Mei Ting Fong	30081	11/13/2025
Abigail Federroll	30029	08/07/2025	Kranthi Brahma Teja Paleti	30082	11/14/2025
Zijian Zhou	30030	08/07/2025	Kevin J. Lloyd	30083	11/14/2025
Kaitlyn Bowlin Turnbull	30031	08/07/2025	Angelle Romaine	30084	11/18/2025
Jerri Anne Callahan	30032	08/07/2025	Julia Marie Lemoine Madden	30085	11/19/2025
Kale Wayne Parks	30033	08/07/2025	Heba Kanan Judeh	30086	11/19/2025
Emma Westbrook	30034	08/07/2025	Emma Jean Williams	30087	11/26/2025
Megan Elizabeth Naquin	30035	08/07/2025	Maggie Peltier	30088	12/01/2025
Adam France	30036	08/07/2025	Ken Khang Nguyen	30089	12/01/2025
Sarah Bonura	30037	08/07/2025	Hanna Zhihong He	30090	12/01/2025
Mengviseth Prak Khuon	30038	08/07/2025	Jason Lyon	30091	12/04/2025
Jamie Schexnaydre	30039	08/08/2025	Robert Howard	30092	12/04/2025
Arthur Abraham Lemann V	30040	08/08/2025	Jude Breaux	30093	12/05/2025
Lauren Hampton	30041	08/08/2025	Ciara Jonkers Holland	30094	12/17/2025
Sean Quoc-Vuong Nguyen	30042	08/08/2025	Billy Tran	30095	12/17/2025
Christine Hurtado	30043	08/08/2025	Kelsey Jordan Woodall	30096	12/17/2025
Matthew Lash	30044	08/08/2025	Stephen Wickwire	30097	12/17/2025
Ethan Dartez	30045	08/11/2025	Brittney Brady	30098	12/17/2025
Ashley Blair Hamilton	30046	08/18/2025	Peyton Joseph Jacob	30099	12/18/2025
Cody Ryan Moore	30047	08/18/2025	Eric Vaurice Griffin	30100	12/18/2025
Megan Weinmann	30048	08/19/2025	Lawren Thompson	30101	12/19/2025
Grant Connor Hickingbottom	30049	08/19/2025	Rebekah Naomi Crandle	30102	12/22/2025
Connor Haynes	30050	08/21/2025	James Austin Mann V	30103	01/12/2026
Thinh Duc Trang	30051	08/22/2025	Paige Elizabeth Milton	30104	01/12/2026
Amelie Zimmer Bond	30052	09/02/2025	Caesar Manuel Pereira	30105	01/13/2026
Shelby Hughes	30053	09/05/2025	Olivia Gabor Lonibos	30106	01/13/2026
Kimberly Taylor	30054	09/15/2025	Teressa Elise Nicosia	30107	01/13/2026
Laura Madeline Businelle	30055	09/18/2025	Kynlee Rose Bartosh	30108	01/13/2026
Harland J. Hebert	30056	09/22/2025	Bradley Bozant	30109	01/16/2026
Courtney Nicole Hebert	30057	09/22/2025	Hailye Murray	30110	01/16/2026
Piush Choudhary	30058	09/22/2025	James Barrow Clement	30111	01/23/2026
Aileen Yanlai Jiang	30059	10/01/2025	Abigail Stacks	30112	01/23/2026
Haley Rietschel	30060	10/08/2025	Veronica Else Jerez Husak	30113	01/23/2026
Merideth Wethern	30061	10/08/2025	Lindsey Babin	30114	01/23/2026
Grant Edgar Cretin	30062	10/13/2025	Phuong Thi Lam Nguyen	30115	01/23/2026
Luke Renard James	30064	10/16/2025	Kali Paige Stains	30116	01/27/2026
William Michael Chemell	30065	10/22/2025	Sholly Miller	30117	01/27/2026
Christian Renee Richard	30066	10/22/2025	Michelle Rose Wright	30118	01/27/2026
Natalie Selene Gunter	30067	10/22/2025	Kennedy Marie Darbonne	30119	02/04/2026
Luan Hoang	30068	10/22/2025	Madeleine Anne Thibaux	30120	02/05/2026
Gabrielle Elizabeth McDonald	30069	10/22/2025	Olivia Blanchard	30121	02/05/2026
George Henry Mercer	30070	10/22/2025	Mackenzie Annaliese Cox	30122	02/09/2026
Janson C. Matte	30071	10/22/2025	Weston Simmons	30123	02/09/2026
Rachel Orr	30072	10/22/2025	Kailyn Grace Miller	30124	02/09/2026
Grace-Anne Jones	30073	10/23/2025	Salvador Joseph Palermo III	30125	02/09/2026
Zachary Paul LeBeouf	30074	11/07/2025	Thomas Jackson Howell	30126	02/09/2026
Lauren Miller Warren	30075	11/12/2025	Amal Nehmeh	30127	02/11/2026
Alejandro Gonzalez Gonzalez	30076	11/12/2025	Kawana L. Boyd	30128	02/24/2026

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: BETSY BOUDREAUX



What are the most common questions you field on the phone or via email from the public in your role as the Board's Licensing Analyst?

Most recently, we are being asked about the changes to legislation regarding the new pathway to licensure. This is a hot topic for sure and has many new candidates excited about their future options for becoming a CPA.

Another frequent question is regarding the educational requirements for the exam AND for licensure. As the new pathway is introduced, I anticipate this will answer many questions for some and will open up questions for others. It's an exciting time for the profession and I'm encouraged that it will open the door for some who may not have considered becoming a CPA in the past.

What projects are you most proud of since you started working for the Board?

Utilizing my obsessive organizational skills to streamline the inter-office licensure process has been one of the most challenging – but yet rewarding – project I've tackled. Streamlining the application for licensure and reducing the timeline from passing their fourth & final part of the exam, to actually becoming a licensed CPA, not only impacts our profession but also helps the new CPAs see the reward of their hard work and dedication to their goal.

What advice would you give to a CPA Exam candidate as they begin their journey on the path to becoming licensed?

Don't give up!! There are so many resources to assist you with reaching your goal and helping you ultimately pass the CPA exam. Reach out to our office, your professors or accounting department at your university, your co-workers or employers, the CPA Society, etc... don't get dissuaded!

What are your hobbies and/or favorite things to do when you aren't at work?

Training for endurance events and introducing our 13-year-old grandson to the world of running, biking, swimming, and strength training is a big part of our lives. My husband and I enjoy letting him workout alongside us and we are his biggest cheerleaders on the occasion that he signs up for a race with us or when he's playing sports at the ballpark. Training for Ironman events has taught me a lot about perseverance that can be applied to the CPA journey for many of the new candidates. If it were easy, everyone would be doing it!

NEW CPAs CONTINUED

Heather Carter	30129	02/24/2026	Christian Nguyen	30139	04/01/2026
Anna Catherine Little	30130	03/04/2026	Aynur A. Abdullin	30140	04/01/2026
Parker Reeves Orvin	30131	03/04/2026	Mia Taylor Chiota	30141	04/01/2026
William Healy	30132	03/04/2026	William Paul Edwards, Jr.	30142	04/01/2026
William Garrett Hable	30133	03/04/2026	Kyle Landon Zimmerle	30143	04/01/2026
Natasha Elaine Mincey	30134	03/04/2026	Dylan McKeough	30144	04/01/2026
Leo Park	30135	03/08/2026	Jeffrey Wade Wilson	30145	04/01/2026
Suzanne Schnellhardt Johnson	30136	03/10/2026	Madeline Pierce	30146	04/02/2026
Hannah Gayle Ray	30137	03/31/2026	Michael Clayton Turner	30147	04/09/2026
Nataliia Sorochuk Shurte	30138	03/31/2026			

BOARD DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS BY CONSENT ORDER

RESPONDENT: Martha Meche Whipple, CPA
Meche & Whipple, ACCPAs
Lafayette, Louisiana
File No. 2023-43

INFORMATION: This matter was pending before the State Board of Certified Public Accountants of Louisiana ("Board") for administrative adjudication of alleged violations of the Louisiana Accountancy Act, La. R.S. 37:71 et seq., by the Respondents, Martha Meche Whipple, CPA, and Meche & Whipple, ACCPAs, ("Firm," collectively "Respondents"), for: engaging in conduct that compromised the duties of integrity and objectivity, and created an unmitigated conflict of interest in connection with professional services provided to a long-term client.

More specifically, the Respondents are alleged to have violated the following provisions of the Louisiana Accountancy Act and Board Rules : La. R.S. 37:79(A)(8): Conduct reflecting adversely upon the licensee's or privilege holder's fitness to perform services while a licensee.

The Respondent agreed to enter into a Consent Order to resolve the matter. Under the terms of the Order, Respondent was formally reprimanded by the Board, and assessed a fine in the amount of two thousand dollars (\$2,000). The Board ordered that a summary of the matter be published in the State Board of CPAs of Louisiana digital Newsletter, and The Consent Order shall be made a public record.

EFFECTIVE

DATE: Consent Order effective April 23, 2026

RESPONDENT: Elaine Hudson Richard, CPA
Elaine H. Richard, CPA, APAC
Carencro, Louisiana
File No. 2024-13

INFORMATION: This matter was pending before the State Board of Certified Public Accountants of Louisiana ("Board") for administrative adjudication of alleged violations of the Louisiana Accountancy Act, La. R.S. 37:71 et seq., by the Respondents, Elaine Hudson Richard, CPA, and Elaine H. Richard, CPA, APAC, ("Firm," collectively "Respondents"), for: failing to timely file income tax returns.

More specifically, the Respondents are alleged to have violated the following provisions of the Louisiana Accountancy Act and Board Rules : La. R.S. 37:79(A)(8): Conduct reflecting adversely upon the licensee's or privilege holder's fitness to perform services while a licensee.

The Respondent agreed to enter into a Consent Order to resolve the matter. Under the terms of the Order, Respondent was formally reprimanded by the Board, and assessed a fine in the amount of three hundred dollars (\$300). The Board ordered that a summary of the matter be published in the State Board of CPAs of Louisiana digital Newsletter, and The Consent Order shall be made a public record.

EFFECTIVE

DATE: Consent Order effective January 9, 2026

In Memoriam



The Board sends its condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Grady Robert Hazel who passed away on February 14, 2026. Grady was appointed to the Louisiana CPA Board by Governor John Bel Edwards on April 29, 2016, where he served until October 2, 2025. His insight, leadership and friendship will be missed tremendously and the Board will be forever grateful for his time and service to the State of Louisiana.



**A MANDATORY
ETHICS 3-HOUR
BOARD-APPROVED CPE COURSE**
must be completed prior to



DECEMBER 31, 2026



LOUISIANA CPA LICENSURE HOUSE BILL 548

MODERNIZING PATHWAYS. EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES.
PROTECTING THE PUBLIC.



SIGNED BY THE GOVERNOR:
JUNE 2, 2026



EFFECTIVE DATE:
AUGUST 1, 2026

House Bill 548 modernizes Louisiana's CPA licensure laws by creating additional pathways to licensure and updating mobility provisions—while maintaining the high standards of the profession and protecting the public.

THREE PATHWAYS TO CPA LICENSURE

1 TRADITIONAL PATHWAY (RETAINED)



EDUCATION

Bachelor's degree +
30 semester hours
with required
accounting/business
coursework



EXPERIENCE

1 year of qualifying
experience



EXAM

Pass the Uniform
CPA Examination

2 NEW BACHELOR'S DEGREE PATHWAY



EDUCATION

Bachelor's degree
with required
accounting
coursework



EXPERIENCE

2 years of qualifying
experience



EXAM

Pass the Uniform
CPA Examination

3 GRADUATE DEGREE PATHWAY



EDUCATION

Graduate degree in
accounting OR a
qualifying graduate
degree*



EXPERIENCE

1 year of qualifying
experience



EXAM

Pass the Uniform
CPA Examination

**The Board will define qualifying graduate degrees by rule.*

WHAT'S NEW IN HOUSE BILL 548?



ADDITIONAL PATHWAY

Allows candidates with a bachelor's degree to qualify with 2 years of experience (no 150-hour requirement).



MOBILITY MODERNIZATION

Updates Louisiana's mobility provisions to align with the national CPA mobility model—making it easier for CPAs to practice across state lines while maintaining public protection.



PUBLIC PROTECTION FIRST

All candidates must meet rigorous education, experience, and exam requirements.



MORE OPTIONS. SAME STANDARDS.

More flexible pathways, but the same commitment to excellence and integrity.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU



FOR STUDENTS

More ways to become a CPA in Louisiana. Plan your education and career path with greater flexibility.



FOR CPAs & EMPLOYERS

A stronger pipeline of talent and updated mobility rules that support today's multi-state marketplace.



FOR THE PROFESSION

A modern, competitive framework that helps attract and retain future CPAs in Louisiana.



LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF CPAs

SERVING THE PUBLIC.

www.cpaboard.state.la.us



Left: From NASBA's Annual Meeting

Photos from the NASBA Executive Director's & Board Staff Conference

