

# Kelly Drakey, CPA

CPA / Lecturer / Accounting Professional / [Linkedin.com/in/kellydrakey](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kellydrakey)

## EXECUTIVE PROFILE

- Strategic and results-oriented finance executive with 20+ years of deep expertise in technical accounting, audit, operational efficiency, and financial transformation.
- A former 1-rated Big 4 Senior Audit Manager and National Policy advisor, now serving as a trusted advisor to C-suite leaders and a university lecturer, translating complex accounting into actionable business strategy.
- Proven ability to lead through transformation, architect scalable processes with a focus on strong internal controls, and build high-performing teams, combining Big 4 rigor with the agility required for high-growth environments.

## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Team Leadership & Mentoring
- C-Suite, Private Equity, & Board Partnership
- Financial Reporting
- Audit Readiness
- Audit Issues Resolution
- Risk Assessment
- Internal Controls & COSO Framework
- Process Re-engineering, Efficiency, & Automation
- Data Analytics & Financial Insights
- Accounting Strategy & Governance
- Policy Creation & Implementation
- IPO Readiness & Public Offerings
- Identifying and Evaluating Deficiencies
- Technical Accounting, including Transactions, Valuations, Revenue Recognition, Leases, Contingencies, CECL, Going Concern, Impairments, Stock Comp, and others.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE –

### SENIOR DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS | Arcus Advisors | Houston, TX | 2022 – Present

- Drives standardization of project oversight and quality-control frameworks to ensure consistency across the consulting practice and to exceed professional and regulatory standards while strengthening client satisfaction and long-term retention.
- Serve as the lead quality reviewer for complex technical projects across the firm.
- Lead internal professional development by designing curriculum and training programs that elevate documentation, reporting, and client-deliverable standards.
- Manage projects by overseeing client relationships for projects including Audit Readiness, Acquisition Accounting, Opening Balance Sheets, Financial Close and Reconciliation processes, and preparation of Financial Statements with footnotes.
- Directed the end-to-end adoption of ASC 842 (Leases) for two diverse businesses, including full contract review (>200 leases), system implementation, impairment analysis, and preparation of technical memos.
- Partnered with the CFO and Controller to serve as the primary technical expert for a medical manufacturer on ASC 606 (Revenue Recognition), CECL, government grant accounting, lessor accounting evaluation, and other technical matters.

### EXECUTIVE EDUCATION, GRADUATE, & UNDERGRADUATE LECTURER, JONES GRADUATE SCHOOL OF BUSINESS | Rice University | Houston, TX | 2018 – Present

Recruited by a top-ranking business school to develop and instruct undergraduate, graduate, and executive-level (continuing education) accounting and auditing curriculum.

- Created and delivered Corporate Executive Education (CPE) for finance leaders (Manager to CFO) on Internal Controls (COSO) and effective audit management, highlighting the importance and rigor around Business Performance Reviews, Reconciliations, and review of non-standard journal entries.
- Architected the complete curriculum for the online Financial Auditing course (launching in 2026 for a global professional audience on Canvas). In the process of designing an online Course on Internal Controls, which will also be publicly available on Canvas (expected launch in late 2026).
- Designed and instructed graduate-level courses in:
  - **Advanced Auditing:** Focused on complex judgment, professional skepticism, and technical research.
  - **Accounting Control Systems:** Full overhaul based on the COSO framework and SOX compliance.
  - **Advanced Financial Accounting:** Deep technical focus on Leases, Revenue, Debt, Stock-Based Comp, and Derivatives.
- Mentor and advise eight cohorts of Master of Accounting (MAcc) students and other undergraduates, creating a direct talent pipeline for public accounting firms.

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## TECHNICAL SKILLS

CPA Certified in Texas

Microsoft Office Suite

Highly Proficient in Excel,  
including Power Query

Google Suite

QuickBooks

NetSuite

Oracle

Zoom

AI tools including Copilot,  
Gemini, ChatGPT, Julius  
Analytics, Claude, and  
Notebook LM

## RECOGNITION

Rice's Center for Career  
Development

Career Champion (Mentor)  
Award Recipient for  
2022-23 academic yr  
2023-24 academic yr

PwC

#1 Performance Rating-PwC  
From FY 2005-06  
through FY 2017-18

PwC

Nominated to the Advisory  
Council for the Head  
Assurance Partner of PwC  
(National Manager Council –  
Houston Delegate)  
2010-2011

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE - Continued

### PRINCIPAL / INTERIM FINANCE LEADER

Independent Financial & Accounting Advisory | Houston, TX | 2018 - Present

Serve as a strategic advisor and fractional finance leader for organizations facing complex transformation, technical matters, and new GAAP standard implementation. Partner directly with C-suite and Controllers to drive operational excellence and ensure compliance.

- **C-Suite Advisor - Process Improvement & Analytics | Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo | 2018 – Current (seasonal)** (*HLSR is a large non-profit raising funds to support students and the agriculture industry; reported \$0.2B in Revenue & \$0.4B in Net Assets in FY 2024*)
  - Engineered and implemented a dynamic inventory projection model using data analytics to identify sales trends, minimize waste, and optimize product availability.
  - Led strategic reviews of internal controls, recommending and implementing process improvements to enhance operational efficiency and secure high-volume retail transactions.
  - Working directly with the COO, CFO, and CIO, played a pivotal role in a successful POS system transition, directing the reconciliation process and collaborating with vendors and cash management teams to resolve discrepancies.
  - authoring position memos for complex government grants, distributor contracts, and warrants/debt.
  - Functioned as the key liaison between client C-suites and external auditors, successfully navigating complex accounting positions and minimizing audit adjustments.
- **ACCOUNTING ADVISOR & CONTROLLER BACKFILL (during ERP Transformation) | Texas Children's Hospital | 2019 – 2024** (*TCH is a large non-profit and the top-ranked Children's Hospital in TX; reported \$6.2B in Revenue & \$3.3B in Cash/Unrestricted Investments in FY 2024*)
  - Provided leadership and support to the Corporate Controller function during a significant ERP implementation, ensuring continuity by overseeing all monthly, quarterly, and annual close, including manual journal entry review, and Business Performance Review controls.
  - Directed the coordination and completion of a **\$500M+ public bond offering**, managing financial data aggregation and authoring qualitative discussions for the prospectus (coordinating with treasury functions).
  - Assessed applicability of new GAAP accounting pronouncements. Architected and executed the organization-wide strategy for adopting ASC 350-40 (Cloud Computing) and ASC 326 (CECL), serving as the liaison across IT, Finance, and Operations functions.
  - Led technical research, assumption-setting, and policy documentation for complex accounting, including CARES Act funding, pledge reserves, and charitable gift annuities.

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## EDUCATION

### MASTER'S DEGREE

Accounting  
Tulane University  
2003 – 2004

### BACHELOR OF SCIENCE

Accounting  
Tulane University  
1999 – 2003

### EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

Northwestern University,  
Kellogg School of  
Management - PwC Family  
Enterprise Advanced  
Education Program  
Attendee - 06/2017

## VOLUNTEER EXPERIENCE

St. Anne School  
Foundation  
Trustee and Treasurer  
2019 – 2024  
Gala Chair - 2021 & 2022  
Raised > \$400k annually  
Managed > \$6M in assets

National Charity League  
(Bayou City Chapter)  
2024 – Present  
Finance Committee  
Asst Treasurer 2024-25  
and 2025-26

UCAL League Coach  
4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> grade Volleyball  
2024 Spring Season  
2025 Spring Season

UCAL League Coach  
2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> grade Basketball  
2024-25 Winter Season  
2025-26 Winter Season

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE - Continued

### SENIOR MANAGER, ASSURANCE | PwC, Houston, TX | 2004 – 2018

1-rated performer in the PwC Private Audit practice from Associate to Senior Manager over 14 years. Managed an average portfolio of 6-10 large-scale private clients (including private equity owned and family enterprises), contributing ~3M in annual service revenue. Serviced clients in a variety of industries, including healthcare, retail, service, and manufacturing.

- Served as PwC's primary day-to-day contact to client stakeholders including C-suite executives (CFO, CAO, Controller), PE Owners, and Audit Committees, guiding them through complex transactions, including acquisitions, dispositions, and initial public offerings (IPO).
- Led the resolution of complex technical accounting and audit issues, consulting with PwC's National Office on FCPA violations, discontinued operations, goodwill impairments, unique revenue recognition issues, legal contingencies, and complex tax matters.
- Excelled in anticipating and resolving issues timely and confidently, including liquidity and going concern, evaluating misstatements, and remediating control deficiencies.
- Managed, developed, and mentored dozens of team members, fostering career growth and building high-performing, collaborative teams.

### PwC KEY NATIONAL LEADERSHIP & TRANSFORMATION ROLES

#### Senior Manager, PwC National Quality Organization | Florham Park, NJ | (2014 – 2016)

- Selected for an elite national tour to architect and co-author PwC's refined audit methodology and policy for non-public company audits (AICPA standards). Mentored other Senior Managers on tour, reviewing their work in various areas of the project.
- Authored and directed firm-wide audit policy and guidance on critical areas as a subject matter expert, including substantive analytics, documentation standards, and Significant risk assessment. Developed multiple supporting Policy Position Papers to support PwC's stance on those key complex areas, as well as related training material and practice aids made available within the US firm.
- Advised the National Chief Auditor and led complex discussions with other national partners, Office of Risk Management, and Office of General Counsel on various policy positions, advocating for pragmatic and efficient policies while demonstrating C-suite-level influence and strategic governance.

#### PwC Houston Market Team Transformation Leader (MTTL) | Houston, TX | (2016 – 2017)

- Spearheaded practice-wide transformation by leading the initiatives for the PwC Private Client practice to promote and teach 6-sigma style methods and tools for building efficiency and effectiveness in engagement teams, improving audit quality and profitability. Assisted in the development of project management tools used by audit teams throughout the US across the PwC Private Client practice.
- Led the national steering committee of the top Market Team Transformation Leaders across the practice, providing direct feedback and strategic recommendations to the US Leadership Team on transformation initiatives, including the use of early AI tools (e.g., Data Analytics for testing Journal Entries and other key Fraud Risk Areas).
- Conducted dozens of workshops with engagement teams, including Partners, which supported them in adopting the Non-Public audit methodology, identified ways to capitalize on new firm technology, and implemented the 6-sigma project management concepts. Led the teams to identify pain points, the current state of the process, root causes of wasted time and effort, and design paths forward for building better communication and efficiency in their audits.