



The Vincent C. Ross Institute of Accounting Research
40 West 4th Street, Suite 300, New York, NY 10012-1118

Baruch Lev, *Director*
e-mail: blev@stern.nyu.edu
Jan Sweeney, *Associate Director*
e-mail: jsweeney@stern.nyu.edu

ROSS ROUNDTABLE ON
The Demand for and Supply of Accounting Professionals
in the Year 2000 and Beyond

Date & Time: Monday, April 3, 2000 from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Location: New York University
Leonard N. Stern School of Business
40 West Fourth Street
Surdna Conference Room, Third Floor
New York, N.Y. 10012-1118

RSVP: 212-998-4143 or email aallison@stern.nyu.edu by March 27, 2000

Roundtable Coordinators:

Robert K. Elliott, *Chairman, AICPA and Partner KPMG in New York City*
Teresa John, *Associate Professor, Department of Accounting, Taxation and Business Law*

ROUNDTABLE BACKGROUND & THEME:

As background to this discussion, the front page of the New York Times ("Shortage of Accounting Students Raises Concern on Audit Quality," 2/19/99), reported a growing gap in the supply of and demand for accounting graduates. The AICPA documented that, despite growing numbers of public companies in the 1990's, the number of auditors remained the same and fewer people entered audit profession. The move by a majority of states to require 150 credit hours of post secondary education for the CPA license, adds to overall shortfall in the supply of accounting professionals, as students who normally would have matriculated in the Year 2000 may choose to complete a fifth year of college. The roundtable will explore ways of increasing the quantity and quality of students who are entering the profession.

Specific questions include:

1. Is the current supply of auditors in the U.S. economy sufficient to satisfy the auditing manpower needs of the public accounting firms?
2. Are CPA firms finding it difficult to recruit and retain auditors?
3. What can academics do to attract more and better students and to improve the skills of accounting graduates?
4. What can CPA firms do to attract and retain more and better auditors? Would raising salaries help?
5. Does the SEC perceive any diminution of audit quality due to an audit manpower "crunch" or poor auditor quality and/or training? What can the SEC do to assist the public accounting?
6. Do the restrictions on investments of auditors (and spouses and other family members) discourage people from becoming or remaining auditors?

The Ross Roundtable is a forum for "public opinion shapers" -- business writers, financial analysts, educators, etc. - to discuss with policymakers, important developments in capital markets and corporate control.