

# The Accountant & International Accounting Bulletin Personality of the year Award Nominees 2016



## Bill Hagaman, CEO & managing partner, WithumSmith+Brown, PC



### The Top 10 Reasons why Bill Hagaman should be named TA&IAB 2016's "Personality of the Year":

10. He is a thought leader on International issues. As a member of HLB International's executive committee and an AICPA international delegate, Bill is an influence in this worldwide network of service firms, and has spear-headed the growth of Withum's global service capabilities.

9. He communicates. Bill sends a weekly MP message to the entire firm, sharing firm news and strategy, news from the profession and inspirational leadership guidance. He has an open-door policy and encourages everyone at every level to call or email him any time. Bill is very approachable.

8. He reads. Bill is a big believer in continuous education, and that includes reading books about leadership, business and other successful business professionals. He even created an account on GoodReads.com (<https://www.goodreads.com/review/list/54552816-bill-hagaman?shelf=read&utf8=%E2%9C%93>) where he shares which books he has read, and has invited everyone at the firm to purchase any of the books to read for themselves, submitting the cost as an expense to be reimbursed. Tom Hood also shared via a comment on Bill's blog, "Your pieces on books you are reading and write-ups about them is exactly what we are talking about for all professionals today, which is the need for continuous learning or as Tom Peters calls it RPD (Radical Personal Development). The pace of change is causing the obsolescence of our knowledge that we need a constant way if keeping it replenished (even if it does not qualify for CPE). I will be using your example in some upcoming presentations..."

7. He's social. Bill shares his thoughts on leadership, books, trends and hot topics related to our profession

# The Accountant & International Accounting Bulletin Personality of the year Award Nominees 2016



through his blog, CEO Thinks (<http://ceothinks.com>) which garners about 500 views a month. Tom Hood, Executive Director of the MACPA, says this about his blog, “Bill, kudos on your blog, wonderful to see CEOs (especially of CPA firms) blogging and communicating what is on their mind.” Additionally, Bill was one of the first – if not the first - MPs to embrace social media and leverage Twitter (@bhagaman) to share articles, news and leadership quotes. He currently has nearly 2,000 followers.

6. He is well respected. Bill is well-known in the Metro NY business community, having garnered a reputation for intelligence, integrity and possessing solid business acumen, and currently sits on the board of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce. Internally, the entire staff look up to him – and not just because he is 6’ 4”! Bill is known to be very firm yet very fair. He has earned our respect because he respects everyone as professionals, helping them grow and thrive in their careers at Withum.

5. He ‘gets it’ when it comes to having a life outside of the office. Many of our professionals are working parents or caregivers of family members,

and they appreciate the flex-time policy Bill fully supports. He is also supportive of those who may want to pursue other interests outside of work, be it coaching baseball or teaching an exercise class, allowing them to fit these things in around their work schedules.

4. He gives back. Bill is very supportive of the firm’s community outreach efforts, be in \$5 Jeans Days or encouraging our staff to volunteer their time and talents to organizations serving those in need. It was his idea to create Withum Week of Caring, when during the three days before the American holiday of Thanksgiving, the entire firm is tasked to go out into their communities and volunteer. Personally, he is currently a member of the Board of Trustees of the Francis E. Parker Memorial Home and Treasurer of the Hyacinth AIDS Foundation. He is current Chairman and former Treasurer of the New Brunswick Cultural Center, Inc., and former Chairman of the George Street Playhouse.

3. He cares. When you speak with Bill, you truly get the sense that you matter. He asks about how you are doing at work, for sure. But he will also ask about your family, your children, your hobbies, how your weekend was. He is genuine.

2. He has Passion. Passion for this firm. Passion for its people. Passion for our communities. He lives and breathes everything about Withum. It is inspiring.

1. He is the Face of Our Firm. You gotta love a Managing Partner who listens to his Marketing Department and dances, lip-syncs and acts for our videos, and poses for our advertisements... all much to the amusement of our staff and the profession (but let’s be honest, it’s impressive!). He is known around the world for these videos... a true reflection of the “personality” he is. Here is our latest video and advertisement featuring Bill: (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j5aD71rRo68>).



**Vote for Bill Hagaman for Personality of the Year!**