

March 2020

Ralph Albert Thomas, CPA (DC), CGMA
CEO & Executive Director, New Jersey Society of CPAs

Ralph Albert Thomas, CPA (licensed in DC) is CEO and Executive Director of the New Jersey Society of Certified Public Accountants (NJCPA). Prior to joining NJCPA in 1999, he was a vice president and region audit head for Citibank, and previously held various management accounting positions at AT&T, Potomac Electric Power Company and PriceWaterhouse (now PricewaterhouseCoopers).

Mr. Thomas has extensive leadership experience on accounting industry boards and committees. He is a member of the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) and was recently selected to be an AICPA Inclusion Champion. He was appointed to the inaugural AICPA National Commission on Diversity and Inclusion and was subsequently appointed to the AICPA Foundation Board. Mr. Thomas has also served on the following AICPA boards/committees: Pre-Certification Education Executive Committee, the Group of 100, Business and Industry Executive Committee, CPA Vision Project Team, Peer Review Executive Committee Board, Strategic Planning Committee and AICPA Council. He is a former member of the CPA/Society Executives Association (SEA) Board and has served on the State Society Network Inc. (SSNI) and Shared Services LLC, a joint venture of the AICPA and SSNI.

Mr. Thomas is a lifetime member and former national and chapter president of the National Association of Black Accountants (NABA). He currently serves on NABA's President's Advisory Council, Finance Committee and Corporate Advisory Board. In 2018, he was awarded the NABA National Chairman's Award. He was also the recipient of NABA's 2010 National Achievement in Non-Profit Award, the 2010 Presidential Service Award, NABA's 1989 Outstanding Member Award and was honored as a "NABA Legend" in 2009. In 2017, Mr. Thomas was selected to receive the NABA New York Chapter President's Award for Leadership and Excellence and the "Boss" award by NABA's Northern New Jersey Chapter.

Mr. Thomas was also appointed chair of the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy's (NASBA) State Society Relations Committee and was appointed to serve on NASBA's Diversity and Inclusion Committee. He is a member of the New Jersey Chamber of Commerce Cornerstone Initiative and was appointed to the Chamber Board of Directors. Mr. Thomas is also the treasurer of Opportunity NJ, a grassroots organization created to inform policymakers and the public about state economic initiatives. Additionally, he was selected for the last nine years by *Accounting Today* as one of the "Top 100 Most Influential People in Accounting." In 2018, he received the NJBIZ Icon Honors award, which recognizes New Jersey business leaders over the age of 60 for their notable success and demonstration of strong leadership both within and outside of their chosen field. Mr. Thomas was awarded the Boy Scouts of America's 2019 Accounting Distinguished Citizen Award

Mr. Thomas is a member of the accounting advisory boards of Lehigh, Rutgers, Seton Hall, Montclair State, Felician and Thomas Edison universities, as well as Middlesex County College.

In addition, he is a member of Lehigh University's Audit Committee, the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, and the College of Business Board of Advisors, and he has been named a Lehigh University Trustee Emeritus. He is a past chair of the Lehigh University Audit Committee and the Committee on Diversity and Inclusion and a former member of Lehigh's Board of Trustees and Finance, Student Affairs, Academic Affairs, and Campus Planning & Operations committees. In June 2018, he was the recipient of Lehigh University's Dr. Costel Denson'56 Award, presented to an alumnus or alumna who has demonstrated leadership by identifying and implementing pathways to increase diversity in the American workplace and educational institutions.

In January 2018, Mr. Thomas was invited by Senate President Steve Sweeney to join a newly formed bipartisan Economic and Fiscal Policy Review Workgroup comprised of a variety of economists and policy experts.

Mr. Thomas earned a B.S. in business and economics as well as an M.B.A. from Lehigh University. He is a CPA licensed in Washington, DC. He resides in South Brunswick, New Jersey, with his family.