



Cheri L. Walker
CPA
Principal

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Areas of Specialization

- Auto Dealership
- Closely Held Businesses
- Credit Union
- Professional Services Firms
- Employee Benefit Plans
- Business Advisory Services
- M&A Advisory Services
- Succession Planning Services

Education and Designations

- Bachelor of Science in Accountancy, Bentley College
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA)

Cheri Walker, CPA, Cheri Walker is a Principal with ARB and a respected leader in the accounting profession, known for her longstanding commitment to client service, firm leadership, and community engagement. She brings a thoughtful, steady approach to advising organizations and mentoring professionals, grounded in decades of experience and a deep understanding of complex business environments.

Cheri's practice focuses on providing financial accounting, income tax planning, and business advisory services to **automotive dealerships**, **credit unions**, **employee benefit plans**, and **closely held businesses**, many with multigenerational and family dynamics. She is recognized for her ability to guide organizations through regulatory complexity, ownership transitions, and operational challenges while maintaining a strong focus on audit quality and client trust.

Cheri joined ARB in 1987, became the firm's first female Principal, and served as Managing Principal from 2006 to 2025. During her tenure, she oversaw firm operations, advanced strategic initiatives, and upheld ARB's mission and core values. Under her leadership, the firm achieved sustained growth, strengthened operational excellence, and earned recognition as one of Maine's Best Places to Work for twelve consecutive years. She was instrumental in advancing technology, workflow efficiency, wellness initiatives, community engagement, and flexible work arrangements across the firm.

In addition to her firm leadership, Cheri leads ARB's Closely Held Businesses practice, advising owners and multigenerational enterprises on accounting, tax, and strategic business matters. She remains actively involved with the AICPA and serves on the Board of Directors of CPAmerica, while continuing to mentor both firm professionals and students pursuing careers in public accounting.

Cheri resides in Falmouth, Maine. Outside of work, she enjoys golfing, skiing, traveling with her adult children, and indulging her passion for anything chocolate.

Specialties

- **Auto Dealerships** – Advises some of northern New England's largest auto dealership groups on financial reporting, tax compliance, acquisitions and dispositions, manufacturer compliance, and succession planning.
- **Closely Held Businesses** – Advises closely held and family-owned businesses on accounting, tax, and advisory matters, including services involving related entities, trusts, and estates.
- **Credit Unions** – Specializes in providing financial statement audits, supervisory committee audits, internal audits, Bank Secrecy Act testing, fraud investigations, and other agreed-upon procedures.
- **Employee Benefit Plans** – Oversees audits of retirement and welfare plans, ESOP-related services, and audit quality initiatives.

Professional Associations

- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA), Member
- Maine Society of Certified Public Accountants (MECPA), Member; Women to Watch Honoree
- CPAmerica, Board of Directors, Member
- Institute for Family-Owned Business (IFOB), Member
- Maine Automobile Dealers Association (MADA), Member
- Massachusetts State Automobile Dealers Association (MSADA), Member
- New Hampshire Automobile Dealers Association (NHADA), Member
- Connecticut Automotive Retailers Association (CAR), Member
- International Women's Forum, Member

Community Involvement

- University of New England, Board of Trustees
- Olympia Snowe Women's Leadership Institute, Former Student Advisor, Sponsor
- Finance Authority of Maine (FAME), Board of Directors, Former Member
- United Way of Greater Portland, Annual Campaign Cabinet, Former Member
- Falmouth Football Boosters, Former Treasurer

Advisory Boards

- University of New England, Board of Trustees
- CPAmerica, Board of Directors
- Finance Authority of Maine (FAME), Board of Directors, Former Member

Firm Involvement

- **ARB Managing Principal (2006–2025)** – Cheri led ARB through nearly two decades of growth and transformation, strengthening operations, culture, and profitability while advancing technology, wellness, and flexible work initiatives.

Recognition and Awards

- Maine Society of CPAs "Women to Watch" Award (2016)
- Forbes Best-in-State Top CPAs – Maine (2025)