

**KAREN K. NELSON, Ph.D., CPA**  
**M.J. Neeley Professor | Professor of Accounting**

M.J. Neeley School of Business  
Texas Christian University  
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Fort Worth, TX 76129

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**EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATION**

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**University of Michigan**

Ph.D. Business Administration (Accounting), 1997

**University of Colorado**

B.S. Business Administration (Accounting), *Summa Cum Laude*, 1988

**Certified Public Accountant**

Colorado, 1990

**ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS**

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**Texas Christian University, Neeley School of Business**

M.J. Neeley Professor and Professor of Accounting, 2016-present

**Rice University, Jones Graduate School of Business**

Harmon Whittington Chair and Professor of Accounting, 2012-2016

Accounting Area Coordinator, 2007-2013

Professor of Accounting, 2009-2012

Associate Professor of Accounting, 2003-2009

**Stanford University, Graduate School of Business**

Assistant Professor of Accounting, 1996-2003

James and Doris McNamara Faculty Fellow, 1998-1999

**University of Michigan, Ross School of Business**

Visiting Assistant Professor of Accounting, 2001-2002

Graduate Research Assistant and Instructor in Accounting, 1991-1996

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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### **Berkeley Research Group**

Senior Advisor, 2020-present

### **Public Company Accounting Oversight Board**

Standing Advisory Group, 2016-2019

### **Deloitte & Touche**

Auditor, 1989-1991

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Financial disclosure; Disclosure regulation; Earnings quality; Earnings management; Securities regulation; Auditing

## PUBLICATIONS

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### ***Research Papers***

“What Does the Auditor Say? Auditors’ Disclosures of Material Misstatement Risks and Audit Fees” with Jeff Zeyun Chen, Yanyan Wang, and Lisheng Yu, *Accounting Horizons*, conditionally accepted.

“Data Visualization in 10-K Filings,” with Theodore E. Christensen, Karson E. Fronk, and Joshua Lee, *Journal of Accounting and Economics* (February 2024), Vol 77, No. 1, Article 101631.

“Explaining Accruals Quality over Time,” with Theodore E. Christensen and Jenna D’Adduzio, [\*Journal of Accounting and Economics\*](#), (August 2023), Vol. 76, No. 1, Article 101575.

“Mind the Gap: CEO-Employee Pay Ratios and Shareholder Say on Pay Votes,” with Steven S. Crawford and Brian R. Rountree, [\*Journal of Business Finance & Accounting\*](#) (January/February 2021), Vol. 48, No. 1-2, 308-337.

- Cited in Securities and Exchange Commission Final Rule “Pay Ratio Disclosure” (17 CFR Parts 229 and 249) (<http://www.sec.gov/rules/final/2015/33-9877.pdf>).
- Featured in the Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance, February 23, 2015 (<https://corpgov.law.harvard.edu/2015/02/23/the-ceo-employee-pay-ratio/>).

“Carrot or Stick? The Shift from Voluntary to Mandatory Disclosure of Risk Factors,” with A. C. Pritchard, [\*Journal of Empirical Legal Studies\*](#) (June 2016), Vol. 13, No. 2, 266-297.

- Featured in the Harvard Law School Forum on Corporate Governance, July 17, 2014 (<https://corpgov.law.harvard.edu/2014/07/17/shift-from-voluntary-to-mandatory-disclosure-of-risk-factors/>).

- “On the Persistence and Pricing of Industry-Wide and Firm-Specific Earnings, Cash Flows, and Accruals,” with Kai Wai Hui and Eric Yeung, [Journal of Accounting and Economics](#) (February 2016), Vol. 61, No. 1, 185-202.
- “Are Individual Investors Influenced by the Optimism and Credibility of Stock Spam Recommendations?” with Richard A. Price and Brian R. Rountree, [Journal of Business Finance & Accounting](#) (November/December 2013), Vol. 40, Issue 9-10, 1155-1183.
- “Judging the Relevance of Fair Value for Financial Instruments,” with Lisa Koonce and Catherine Shakespeare, [The Accounting Review](#) (November 2011), Vol. 86, No. 6, 2075-2098.
- “Auditor Switches in the pre- and post-Enron Eras: Risk or Realignment?,” with Wayne R. Landsman and Brian R. Rountree, [The Accounting Review](#) (March 2009), Vol. 84, No. 2, 531-558.
- “The Screening Effect of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act,” with Stephen J. Choi and A. C. Pritchard, [Journal of Empirical Legal Studies](#) (March 2009), Vol. 6, No. 1, 35-68.
- “The Market Reaction to Arthur Andersen’s Role in the Enron Scandal: Loss of Reputation or Confounding Effects?,” with Richard A. Price and Brian R. Rountree, [Journal of Accounting and Economics](#) (December 2008), Vol. 46, No. 2-3, 279-293.
- “An Alternative Interpretation of the Discontinuity in Earnings Distributions,” with William H. Beaver and Maureen F. McNichols, [Review of Accounting Studies](#) (December 2007), Vol. 12, No. 4, 525-556.
- “Do the Merits Matter More? The Impact of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act,” with Marilyn F. Johnson and A. C. Pritchard, [Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization](#) (October 2007), Vol. 23, No. 3, 627-652.
- “Management of the Loss Reserve Accrual and the Distribution of Earnings in the Property-Casualty Insurance Industry,” with William H. Beaver and Maureen F. McNichols, [Journal of Accounting and Economics](#) (August 2003), Vol. 35, No. 3, 347-376.
- “The Relation Between Auditors’ Fees for Non-Audit Services and Earnings Management,” with Richard Frankel and Marilyn F. Johnson, [The Accounting Review](#) (2002) Vol. 77, Supplement, 71-105.
- “The Impact of Securities Litigation Reform on the Disclosure of Forward-Looking Information by High Technology Firms,” with Marilyn F. Johnson and Ron Kasznik, [Journal of Accounting Research](#) (September 2001) Vol. 39, No. 2, 297-327.
- “Accruals and the Prediction of Future Cash Flows,” with Mary E. Barth and Donald P. Cram, [The Accounting Review](#) (January 2001), Vol. 76, No. 1, 27-58.

“Shareholder Wealth Effects of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995,” with Marilyn F. Johnson and Ron Kasznik, [Review of Accounting Studies](#) (September 2000) Vol. 5, No. 3, 217-233.

“*In re Silicon Graphics Securities Litigation: Shareholder Wealth Effects of the Interpretation of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act’s Pleading Standard*,” with Marilyn F. Johnson and A.C. Pritchard, *Southern California Law Review* (May 2000) Vol. 73, No. 4, 773-810.

- Reprinted in *Corporate Practice Commentator*, Robert B. Thompson (editor), Vol. 43, No. 3 (2001), 479-516, West Group Publishing, St. Paul, MN.
- Excerpt reprinted in *Corporate Governance: Law, Theory, and Policy*, Thomas W. Joo (editor), (2004), Carolina Academic Press, Durham, NC.

“Rate Regulation, Competition, and Loss Reserve Discounting by Property-Casualty Insurers,” [The Accounting Review](#) (January 2000) Vol. 75, No. 1, 115-138.

“Fair Value Accounting for Commercial Banks: An Empirical Analysis of SFAS 107,” [The Accounting Review](#) (April 1996) Vol. 71, No. 2, 161-182.

### **Refereed Commentaries**

“Response to FASB Exposure Draft: The Fair Value Option for Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities, Including an Amendment of FASB Statement No. 115,” principal co-author, Financial Accounting Standards Committee, *Accounting Horizons* (June 2007), Vol. 21, No. 2, 189-200.

“Response to FASB Exposure Draft, Employers’ Accounting for Defined Benefit Pension and Other Postretirement Plans: An Amendment of FASB Statements No. 87, 88, 106, and 132(R),” Financial Accounting Standards Committee, *Accounting Horizons* (June 2007), Vol. 21, No. 2, 201-213.

“A Response to FASB Exposure Draft: Accounting for Uncertain Tax Positions: An Interpretation of FASB Statement No. 109,” Financial Accounting Standards Committee, *Accounting Horizons* (March 2007), Vol. 21, No. 1, 103-112.

“Financial Accounting and Reporting Standards for Private Entities,” principal co-author, Financial Accounting Standards Committee, *Accounting Horizons* (June 2006), Vol. 20, No. 2, 179-194.

“Response to the FASB’s Exposure Draft on Fair Value Measurements,” principal co-author, Financial Accounting Standards Committee, *Accounting Horizons* (September 2005), Vol. 19, No. 3, 187-196.

### **Practitioner Publications**

“Auditor Independence,” with Richard Frankel and Marilyn F. Johnson, *Investor Relations Quarterly* (2003) Vol. 5, No. 3, 18-26.

“Non-Audit Fees Paid to Auditors: Do They Lead to Managed Earnings?” with Richard Frankel and Marilyn F. Johnson, *Directorship* (July/August 2002) Vol. 28, No. 7, 6-8.

“Speaking Out: A Look at the Effects of Safe Harbor on Disclosure Practices,” with Marilyn F. Johnson and Ron Kasznik, *Investor Relations Quarterly* (1998) Vol. 2, No. 1, 10-16.

### ***Working Papers***

“When is a Loss Not a Loss? Auditors’ Going Concern Opinions and Alternative (to GAAP) Measures of Earnings,” with Anne Albrecht and Jeff Zeyun Chen.

“The Rise of the Knowledge Economy and its Effect on Inferences,” with Patrick L. Hopkins and Stephen J. Lusch.

### **TEXTBOOKS**

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*Financial Accounting for Undergraduates*, James S. Wallace, Karen K. Nelson, and Theodore E. Christensen (currently in 5<sup>th</sup> edition), Cambridge Business Publishers (2023).

*Intermediate Accounting*, Michelle Hanlon, Leslie Hodder, Karen K. Nelson, Darren Roulstone (currently in 3<sup>rd</sup> edition), Cambridge Business Publishers (2023).

*Financial & Managerial Accounting for Undergraduates*, James S. Wallace, Karen K. Nelson, Theodore E. Christensen, and L. Scott Hobson (currently in 2<sup>nd</sup> edition), Cambridge Business Publishers (2020).

### ***Teaching Cases***

“Sears: Accounting for Uncollectible Accounts.” September 2000. Stanford Graduate School of Business Case A165 (available through Harvard Business Publishing).

### **ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS**

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TCU Student Government Association, Neeley School of Business Faculty Member of the Year, 2023

Undergraduate Teaching Award, Neeley School of Business, TCU, 2023

Poets & Quants Top 50 Undergraduate Business Professors, 2020

Outstanding Discussant Award, AAA Financial Accounting and Reporting Section, 2018

MBA for Professionals Teaching Excellence Award, Rice University, 2015

MBA for Executives Teaching Excellence Award, Rice University, 2012

Distinguished Resident Faculty, AAA Doctoral Consortium, 2009

MBA for Executives Teaching Excellence Award, Rice University, 2008

State Farm Companies Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Award, 1995

Deloitte & Touche Foundation Doctoral Fellowship, 1994-1995

Willam F. Paton Fellowship, University of Michigan, 1991-1995

Dykstra Award for Excellence in Teaching, University of Michigan, 1994  
American Accounting Association Doctoral Consortium, 1994  
Big 10 Doctoral Consortium, 1992

## **INVITED RESEARCH SEMINARS**

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Australian Graduate School of Management, 1999  
Brigham Young University, 2010  
Carnegie Mellon University, 2001  
Columbia University, 2000, 2016  
Cornell University, 2015  
Dartmouth College, 2003  
Duke University, 1996, 1999  
Emory University, 2002, 2004  
George Washington University, 2009  
Harvard University, 1996  
Indiana University, 2001  
London Business School, 2004  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 1996  
Michigan State University, 2001, 2004  
New York University, 2005  
Northwestern University, 1996, 2001  
Ohio State University, 1996, 2003, 2011, 2018  
Penn State University, 1996, 2002, 2009  
Rice University, 2002  
Southern Methodist University, 2008, 2022  
Stanford University, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000  
Syracuse University, 2002  
Texas Christian University, 2003, 2015  
Washington University in St. Louis, 1996, 2001, 2002  
University of Arizona, 2010  
University of Arkansas, 2012  
University of British Columbia, 2002, 2024 (scheduled)  
University of California at Berkeley, 1996, 2001  
University of California at Davis, 2002  
University of California at Irvine, 2013  
University of California at San Diego, 2015  
University of Cincinnati, 2023  
University of Chicago, 1996, 2014  
University of Colorado, 2012  
University of Georgia, 2015  
University of Houston, 2005  
University of Iowa, 2015  
University of Kentucky, 2023

University of Massachusetts, 2007  
University of Minnesota, 2008  
University of Missouri, 2022  
University of North Carolina, 2012  
University of North Texas, 2014  
University of Oregon, 2002  
University of Pennsylvania, 1996  
University of Rochester, 1996  
University of Texas at Austin, 1996, 2020  
University of Texas at Dallas, 2019  
University of Texas at San Antonio, 2011  
University of Utah, 1998  
University of Washington, 1996  
Wake Forest University, 2023

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS**

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*The Accounting Review* Conference on Quality of Earnings

Paper presentation, 2002

American Accounting Association (AAA) Annual Meeting

Paper presentation, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2004, 2008

Discussant, 2002, 2005, 2011, 2014

Moderator, 2006, 2014

AAA Financial Accounting and Reporting Section Midyear Meeting

Paper presentation, 2004

Discussant, 2004, 2010, 2014, 2018 (Outstanding Discussant Award)

AAA Auditing Section Midyear Meeting

Panelist, 2003

AAA Doctoral Consortium

Presentation and Discussion Leader, 2009

AAA/Financial Accounting Standards Board Financial Reporting Issues Conference

Discussion Leader, 2001

Duke/University of North Carolina Fall Accounting Camp

Paper presentation, 2002

Financial Economics and Accounting Conference

Paper presentation, 1999, 2000, 2003

Discussant, 2009

Haskayne and Fox Accounting Conference, University of Calgary and Temple University

Paper presentation, 2022, 2023

Discussant, 2022, 2023

Session Chair, 2022

Lone Star Accounting Research Conference

Paper presentation, 2007, 2013, 2021

PCAOB Center for Economic Analysis Conference on Auditing and Capital Markets  
Discussant, 2014, 2015  
University of Colorado Burrigge Center for Securities Analysis and Valuation  
Presentation, 2002  
University of Utah Winter Accounting Conference  
Paper presentation, 2003  
Discussant, 2001, 2005  
Vanderbilt University Law School, Law and Business Conference  
Commentator, 2003

## **PRESENTATIONS TO PROFESSIONAL AUDIENCES**

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Neeley Accounting Department Continuing Professional Education, Texas Christian University, 2023  
“Tell Me More: Expanded Audit Disclosures”  
Institute for Excellence in Corporate Governance, University of Texas at Dallas, 2018  
“Through the Looking Glass: Insights into the Future of Financial Reporting and Auditing”  
Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, 2012  
“Auditor Independence and Audit Firm Rotation”  
Jones Partners Thought Leadership Series, Rice University, 2012  
“Many Voices at the Table: Women and Leadership in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”

## **TEACHING**

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### **Texas Christian University, Neeley School of Business**

Advanced Financial Reporting (MBA)  
Financial Reporting (MBA)  
Financial Reporting II (undergraduate)

### **Rice University, Jones Graduate School of Business**

Contemporary Accounting Research (Ph.D.)  
Financial Accounting (Executive MBA, Professional MBA, undergraduate business minor)  
Financial Statement Analysis (Executive MBA)  
Financial Reporting and Analysis (MBA, Executive MBA)  
Accounting Analysis of Complex Business Transactions (MBA)

### **Stanford University, Graduate School of Business**

Financial Accounting (MBA)  
Capital Markets Research (Ph.D.)

### **Stanford University, Economics Department**

Financial Accounting (undergraduate and graduate)

### **University of Michigan, Ross School of Business**

Corporate Financial Reporting (MBA)



## EXECUTIVE EDUCATION

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### **Rice University, Jones Graduate School of Business**

Accelerated Development Program  
CB&I (Global Leadership Development Program)  
Cooper Industries (Leadership Development Program)  
Emerging Leaders Program  
Executive Program in European Utility Management  
Finance and Accounting for Executives  
Graduate Certificate in Healthcare Management  
Rice Education Entrepreneurship Program

### **Texas Christian University, Neeley School of Business**

Elbit Systems U.S. (Financial Acumen)

## EDITORIAL APPOINTMENTS AND REVIEWING ACTIVITIES

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### Editor

*Accounting Horizons*, appointed term beginning June 2024

### Associate Editor

*Journal of Accounting & Economics*, 2020-present

### Editorial Board

*The Accounting Review*, 2004-2017

### Ad hoc referee

*Accounting and Business Research*, *Accounting Horizons*, *Accounting*, *Organizations & Society*, *Accounting Research Journal*, *Administrative Science*, *Auditing: A Journal of Practice & Theory*, *Asia-Pacific Journal of Accounting and Economics*, *Contemporary Accounting Research*, *European Accounting Review*, *Journal of Accounting*, *Auditing, and Finance*, *Journal of Accounting and Economics*, *Journal of Accounting and Public Policy*, *Journal of Accounting Research*, *Journal of Business Ethics*, *Journal of Business Finance and Accounting*, *Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis*, *Journal of Financial Reporting*, *Journal of Financial Services Research*, *Journal of Law, Finance and Accounting*, *Journal of Risk and Insurance*, *Management Science*, *Quantitative Finance*, *Review of Accounting Studies*, *The Accounting Review*, AAA Annual Meeting, AAA Financial Accounting and Reporting Section Mid-Year Meeting, Hong Kong Research Grants Council

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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### **American Accounting Association**

Distinguished Contribution to Accounting Literature Committee, 2014-2015  
Intellectual Property Task Force, 2011-2014  
Doctoral Consortium Committee, 2008-2009  
Financial Accounting Standards Committee, 2004-2006  
Notable Contribution to Accounting Literature Committee, 2003-2004  
Seminal Contribution to Accounting Literature Committee, 2003-2004  
Competitive Manuscript Committee, 2000-2001; 2002-2003

### **Financial Accounting and Reporting Section of the American Accounting Association**

Chair, Best Midyear Meeting Paper Award Committee, 2014-2015  
Chair, Best Dissertation Award Committee, 2011-2012  
Chair, Midyear Meeting Paper Selection Committee, 2006-2007  
Best Midyear Meeting Paper Award Committee, 2015- 2016  
Midyear Meeting Paper Selection Committee, 2011-2012  
Steering Board, 2005-2007  
Best Dissertation Award Committee, 2003-2004  
Best Paper Award Committee, 2003-2004

### **Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, Center for Economic Analysis**

Program Committee, Conference on Auditing and Capital Markets, 2015-2019

### **University of New Hampshire, Peter T. Paul College of Business and Economics**

Program Committee, Bretton Woods Accounting and Finance Conference, 2024

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

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### **Accounting Department, Neeley School of Business, Texas Christian University**

Chair, Committee 150, 2022-present  
Undergraduate Curriculum Committee (Financial), 2022-present

### **Neeley School of Business, Texas Christian University**

Research Committee, 2016-2021  
Dean's Advisory Council, 2018-2021  
Graduate Programs Curriculum Committee, 2016-2017

### **Texas Christian University**

Chancellor's Scholar Interviewer (2023)  
Faculty Appeal Hearing Committee (ad hoc), 2022  
Budget Advisory Committee, 2018-2021  
Research Policy Advisory Committee, 2017-2019  
Faculty Senate, 2017-2020

Governance Committee, 2018-2020  
Faculty Relations Committee, 2017-2018

**Jones Graduate School of Business, Rice University**

Chair, Master of Accounting Program Relaunch Working Group, 2010-2013  
Chair, Research Committee, 2005-2006, 2013-2014  
Chair, Curriculum Committee, 2011-2013  
Chair, Executive MBA Program Oversight Committee, 2006-2008  
Academic Standards Committee, 2014-2016  
Undergraduate Business Program Committee, 2014-2016  
Promotions and Tenure Committee, 2012-2014  
Honorary Titles Committee, 2012-2014  
Ph.D. Program Committee, 2008-2009  
Curriculum Committee, 2007-2008, 2014-2016  
MBA Programs Committee, 2003-2004, 2008-2009, 2010-2011  
Research Committee, 2003-2004, 2006-2007  
Teaching Committee, 2004-2006  
Ph.D. Program Development Committee, 2006-2008  
Curriculum Review Committee, 2007-2008  
Executive MBA Program Review Committee, 2004-2006  
Search Committee for MBA Program Director, 2005  
Faculty representative, Jones Graduate School of Business Honor Council, 2010-2011

**Rice University**

Marshals Committee, 2006-2008  
Head Graduate Marshal, 2008  
Working Group on Teaching Effectiveness, 2010-2011  
Faculty Associate, Hanszen College, 2003-2008

**Graduate School of Business, Stanford University**

Stanford Summer Accounting Camp, 1997, 1999, 2001  
Information Resources Advisory Board, 1997-2000  
Thesis Committees:  
    Member, Yvonne Lu (Accounting)  
University Orals Committees:  
    Member, Brandice Cane (Political Economy)  
    Member, Joseph Hall (Operations, Information, and Technology)  
    Member, Jay Silver (Political Economy)