

NEW ACCOUNTANT[®]

MARKS PANETH & SHRON LLP PARTNER ELECTED PRESIDENT OF NEW YORK STATE SOCIETY OF CPAs (NYSSCPA)

Sharon Sabba Fierstein, Litigation and Corporate Financial Advisory Services Partner at MP&S, to Lead NYSSCPA in Education, Advocacy & Recruitment

May 15, 2008 – Marks Paneth & Shron LLP (MP&S), the New York-based accounting firm, announced today that Sharon Sabba Fierstein, Partner in the firm's Litigation and Corporate Financial Advisory Services Group, has been installed as President of The New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants (NYSSCPA).

As President, Ms. Fierstein will lead the nearly 30,000-member organization in its education, advocacy and recruitment initiatives. She will interact with all 16 chapters throughout the state and meet with legislators and representatives of the State Education Department and the State Board of Accountancy to further the goals of the Society, particularly with respect to accountancy reform within New York.

Ms. Fierstein currently serves as chair of the NYSSCPA's Quality Enhancement Policy Committee (QEPC). In this role, she has emphasized elevating the public's expectations of the CPA professional. In particular, Ms. Fierstein has guided the Committee in recently completing a whitepaper on Pre-Certification Education in anticipation of the New York State's move in August 2009 from 120 hours to a 150 hour education requirement to sit for the CPA exam as part of the licensing requirement to enter the profession. The paper conceptually defines the additional 30 hours by calling for the development of critical thinking skills through completion of a graduate degree.

Said Ms. Fierstein, "The NYSSCPA plays an important role in the advancement of our industry, and I'm delighted and honored to be able to contribute."

At Marks Paneth & Shron, Ms. Fierstein leads the firm's litigation services work for mortgage banking (including subprime), conventional lending institutions and regulatory agencies. She also manages the day-to-day operations of the Marks Paneth & Shron Litigation and Corporate Financial Advisory Services Group.

Ms. Fierstein holds a Master of Business Administration degree from New York University and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Wesleyan University in Middletown, Connecticut. She resides in Woodbury, New York with her husband and twin daughters.

About Marks Paneth & Shron

Marks Paneth & Shron LLP (MP&S) is an accounting firm with nearly 500 people, approximately 70 of whom are partners and principals. The firm provides businesses with a full range of auditing, accounting and tax services, as well as litigation and corporate financial advisory services to domestic and international clients. The firm also specializes in providing tax advisory and consulting for high net worth individuals and their families, as well as a wide range of

services for international, real estate, media, entertainment, nonprofit, professional and financial services and energy clients.

The firm also provides information technology consulting services through its Tailored Technologies subsidiary. In addition, its membership in JHI, the leading international association for independent business advisers, financial consulting and accounting firms, facilitates service delivery to clients throughout the United States and around the world.

Marks Paneth & Shron, whose origins date back to 1907, is the 28th largest accounting firm in the U.S., and the 15th largest in the New York area. Its headquarters are in Manhattan. Additional offices are in Westchester, Long Island and the Cayman Islands. For more information, please visit www.markspaneth.com.

About the NYSSCPA

Representing 29,000 CPAs, the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants (NYSSCPA) is the oldest state accounting organization in the nation.

Incorporated in 1897, the Society is a not-for-profit organization that seeks to establish and maintain high standards of integrity, honor and character among certified public accountants. Its members are CPAs working in public practice, industry, government and education in a state that serves as the home of Wall Street and major financial institutions.

The New York State Society of CPAs is located at 3 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10016. To learn more about the Society call 800-633-6320 or visit the Society's website at www.nysscpa.org.

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