

# Nicholas J. Talian CPA

Maryland / DC Metro Area (teleworking) | 301-532-5550 | nicholas@talian.org

## CPA / Financial Systems Specialist

Licensed Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and Financial Systems Specialist with 20-years' experience working across diverse sectors including private, corporate, commercial, for-profit and Federal Government, with associated authorization through passing multiple US Federal Government background investigations. Possesses demonstrable success in bridging the gap between technology and accounting / finance practices by utilizing a strong background in both IT and accounting. Recognized for expertise in leading and coordinating end-to-end Enterprise-wide systems implementations, developing customized Access databases and creating automated solutions. A seasoned Accountant able to provide a wealth of services encompassing audit readiness, financial statement reconciliation, general ledger analysis, cost accounting and internal controls implementation / testing. In addition, able to create engaging and visual content and reports to drive understanding of complex financial data at all levels. Passionate about technologies including Cloud computing, Artificial Intelligence, Enterprise Architecture and robotics. **Areas of expertise include:**

- ◆ CPA / Public Accounting
- ◆ Finance Systems Management
- ◆ Financial Operations Oversight
- ◆ Technical Accounting
- ◆ IT Project Management
- ◆ System Implementation
- ◆ Database Administration
- ◆ Robotic Process Automation
- ◆ Financial Analysis
- ◆ Bookkeeping (GAAP)
- ◆ Budget Management
- ◆ Audit Readiness
- ◆ Statement Reconciliation
- ◆ Regulatory Reporting
- ◆ Data Analytics
- ◆ Cybersecurity
- ◆ Internal Controls Testing
- ◆ Cost Accounting
- ◆ Change and Risk Management
- ◆ Full Stack Software Development
- ◆ Senior Stakeholder Management
- ◆ Cloud Computing (AWS, Azure)
- ◆ Machine Learning and AI
- ◆ Object Oriented Programming

## CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- The US Copyright Office required support in identifying and delivering alternative options for the Pay.Gov function for the Electronic Copyright Office system. As Manager, led project to identify and deliver alternatives for the Pay.Gov system. Defined business requirements; performed cost benefit analysis of options; developed and implemented roadmap; analyzed alternatives to Pay.Gov for the Electronic Copyright Office system; collated relevant Government Furnished Information (GFI); liaised with stakeholders; and project managed end-to-end lifecycle. Succeeded in implementing enhanced Pay.Gov system for the Electronic Copyright Office.
- KPMG was tasked by the National Science Foundation to develop custom software solutions to meet and enhance US Treasury reporting. Engaged by KPMG as Senior Accounting Systems Development Lead to deliver a new Government-wide Treasury Account Symbol Adjusted Trial Balance System (GTAS). Led team of 10 through development of software; defined client requirements; produced technical designs; organized testing; and led implementation of the new system. Succeeded in delivering GTAS system which significantly improved performance of essential business functions and reduced time spent on manual processes by 75%.
- The Department of Justice had engaged Grant Thornton to reconcile their financial statements from multiple sources due to discrepancies. As Project Manager for Federal Financial Systems, led design/development of the Financial Statements Database (FSDB) to facilitate automation of mandatory filings with US Treasury. Defined client requirements; provided insights into financial operations and discrepancies; utilized business intelligence and tools including Oracle; liaised with federal accounting professionals; and implemented solutions to improve reporting. Succeeded in stabilizing reporting and reducing time spent on reconciliation work.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences (Maryland)**

Aug 2019 – Feb 2020

*Health Science University of the US federal government established in 1972*

### Systems Accountant

Responsible for assessing new computer technologies and implementing improvements to drive productivity and efficiencies within accounting systems including current and proposed system upgrades. As Systems Accountant, planned, designed, implemented and maintained financial accounting systems. Ensured that system designs facilitated integrity of financial records and that required data and reporting capabilities were consistent with Standard Financial Information Structure (SFIS). Provided comprehensive analytical services to support financial reporting of transactions through the accounting systems of USUHS budget and developed robust financial and

accounting policies, procedures and system requirements. In addition, recorded a updated transactions in financial systems, General Fund Enterprise Business System (GFEBBS) and Defense Agencies Initiatives (DAI) with a focus on driving system performance, compliance and accuracy.

**Key Contributions:**

- ◆ Developed and delivered innovative software change request and functional specifications to implement modifications and enhancements to financial accounting systems.
- ◆ Analyzed and utilized audit findings, management reports and system indicators to identify and develop system re-design opportunities to drive continuous improvement.
- ◆ Succeeded in identifying, managing and resolving complex issues and problems related to accounting systems design and modification and additionally analyzed Department of Defense procedures and policies regarding financial systems to ensure consistent performance and compliance of systems.

**Grant Thornton** (DC Metro Area)

Jun 2016 – Jun 2018

*One of the world's largest professional services networks of independent accounting and consulting firms*

**Manager**

**Client: Library of Congress / US Copyright Office (Sep 2017 - Jun 2018)**

Led a team to support delivery of actions for the Library of Congress. This included performing cost benefit analysis, roadmap implementation and payment processor analysis of alternatives for the Employee Time and Attendance / Labor Distribution Module. Performed in-depth analysis of alternatives to Pay.Gov for the Electronic Copyright Office system which involved gathering relevant Government Furnished Information (GFI), performing stakeholder interviews and preparing key deliverables for the project. Provided end-to-end project management including developing plans, providing status updates to Contracting Officer, leading junior resources and working collaboratively with the US Treasury to enhance quality of IT support for the Pay.Gov solution in line with SLAs.

**Key Contributions:**

- ◆ Instrumental in developing and implementing alternatives for Employee Time and Attendance / Labor Distribution Module and Pay.Gov system for the Electronic Copyright Office system.
- ◆ Created and presented 2 successful professional services proposals as Lead Technical Author and played a key role in developing new service offerings.

**Project Manager – Federal Financial Systems**

**Client: Dept. of Justice (Jun 2016 – Aug 2017)**

As Project Manager for Federal Financial Systems, led the end-to-end design and development of the Financial Statements Database (FSDB) to facilitate automation of mandatory filings with US Treasury. Responsible for delivering insights into financial operations using business intelligence and software visualization tools including Tableau and additionally, documented and presented solutions to enhance business processes to senior managers. Liaised with federal accounting professionals to identify and implement solutions to improve ad-hoc financial reporting by researching and applying OMB Circular A-136 and A-123, GTAS, GAO Yellow and Green books and other applicable regulatory guidance. In addition, analysed and research key business processes including intragovernmental reconciliations, quarterly financial reporting and IPAC transactions.

**Key Contributions:**

- ◆ Succeeded in stabilizing and improving development environment using extensive knowledge of relational databases, interface processing, change control and software development lifecycle methodologies.
- ◆ Worked in close collaboration with the Justice Management Division, Finance staff and IT professionals to plan, deliver and maintain continuous improvements to the internal collaboration site's metadata taxonomy and permission groups for a key component within the department.

**KPMG** (DC Metro Area)

Sep 2011 – Jun 2015

*Global network of professional firms providing Audit, Tax and Advisory services*

**Deputy Audit Readiness Project Manager**

**Client: Dept. of Defense (May 2014 – Jun 2015)**

Engaged to support and coordinate Corrective Action Planning / Systems Change Request (CAP/SCR) Process, Data Analytics and Root Cause Analysis teams in line with the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense – Comptroller's Financial Improvement and Audit Readiness (FIAR) Guidance (DLA Finance J8 – Audit Readiness Initiative). Responsible for overseeing, monitoring, testing and documenting internal controls to support OMB Circulars A-123.

In addition, performed testing and gathered evidential matter for Tests of Designs (TODs) and Tests of Effectiveness (TOEs) for internal controls over financial reporting (ICOFR) and internal controls over non-financial operations (ICONO). As Deputy Audit Readiness Project Manager, led testing of Information Technology General Controls (ITGC) and ensured SOX compliance.

**Key Contributions:**

- ◆ Succeeded in executing audit follow up procedures and improved multiple government information systems to support Audit Readiness engagement. Systems included SharePoint repositories, Clarizen, MS Access databases, Corrective Action Plan / System Change Request (CAP/SCR) database.

**Senior Accounting Systems Development Lead  
Client: National Science Foundation (Sep 2011 – May 2014)**

Provided trusted leadership and direction to a team of 10 resources through the development of custom software solutions ensuring compliance with US Treasury's reporting requirements, with the aim of facilitating performance of essential business functions and preparing for a major software upgrade to the core accounting system. Managed requirements gathering activities, produced detailed technical designs, refactored codes, coordinated regression testing and contributed to written proposals in response to solicitations and Requests for Proposals (RFPs). Responsible for managing and supporting Identity and Access Management (IAM), Independent Verification and Validation (IV&V) and Robotic Process Automation (RPA) using Automation Anywhere Enterprise Client. Produced and presented technical strategy briefs and periodic financial reports, provided staffing recommendations to meet business needs and represented the organization at technical conferences. In addition, delivered training and technical design sessions whilst working with key partners to secure new business and contract renewals.

**Key Contributions:**

- ◆ Played a pivotal role in developing and delivering systems including Government-wide Treasury Account Symbol Adjusted Trial Balance System (GTAS), Intra-governmental Reporting and Analysis System (IRAS) and Intra-governmental Payment and Collection System (IPAC).
- ◆ Reviewed and automated business processes for quarterly financial reporting to the US Treasury and reconciliation with Federal Trading Partners which significantly reduced time and effort spent on manual data entry by approximately 75%.
- ◆ Succeeded in improving information systems including SharePoint repositories, Microsoft Access databases and other proprietary software tools in response to audit readiness engagement.

**US Dept. of Health & Human Services (Maryland)**

Apr 2008 – Sep 2011

*Provider of effective health and human services for all Americans*

**Federal Information Technology Specialist**

As Federal Information Technology Specialist, provided strategic oversight and support of the Unified Financial Management System (UFMS) with ownership for leading and mentoring a team of 15 Oracle Database Administrators to support agency-wide financial systems. Worked in close collaboration with external vendors, data hosting providers and end users whilst also facilitating weekly infrastructure and technical team meetings. Responsible for monitoring utilization of office space, managing on-boarding and off-boarding of contractors, procured supplies to support day to day operations and supported procurement of IT consulting services from proposal evaluation through to contract award and execution which included drafting RFPs for Cloud IT services for federal government.

Served as the primary technical liaison with the IT Security Office with accountability for scheduling periodic penetration testing and vulnerability scans of systems in addition to coordinating responses for security incidents. Accountable for maintaining DR and Continuity of Operations Plans (COOP/DR) for systems, applying NIST security, audit and accountability control standards for Federal Information Systems and reviewing PL/SQL scripts for quality prior to deployment to production Oracle Database.

**Key Contributions:**

- ◆ Led the successful end-to-end implementation, configuration, support and deployment of a new Electronic Content Management system (ECM) and document repository web application with several hundred users. Project was delivered on time and within budget and improved information sharing amongst stakeholders.
- ◆ Spearheaded the deployment and configuration of Oracle Audit Vault for production databases to achieve high priority milestones set by business owners; subsequently receiving a Merit Incentive Bonus.
- ◆ Implemented significant improvements to production infrastructure including load balancers, firewalls and storage devices through engaging with technical teams to improve resolution of technical service requests.

- ◆ Succeeded in improving and streamlining business processes including interactions with data center hosting provider and Commercial Off-the-Shelf (COTS) vendors.

## ADDITIONAL CAREER HISTORY

**IBM / Lockheed Martin** (DC Metro Area), IT Consultant / Java Developer ◆ Feb 2006 – Apr 2008

**Accenture** (DC Metro Area), Information Technology Consultant ◆ Aug 2003 – Oct 2005

**Video Labs** (Maryland), Graphic Designer ◆ May 2002 – Mar 2003

**Sun Microsystems** (California), Summer Software Intern ◆ Jun 2000 – Sep 2000

## EDUCATION ~ CREDENTIALS ~ TRAINING

**MBA Accounting:** American University, Washington, DC

**Sc. B Computer Science:** Brown University, Providence, RI

**Certified Public Accountant (CPA):** New Hampshire License #7812

**Certified Public Accountant (CPA):** Maryland License #44617

**Project Management Professional (PMP):** # 1532146

**Certified Government Financial Manager (CGFM):** Certificate Number 15969

**Sun Certified Java Programmer (SCJP) / Sun Certified Web Component Developer (SCWCD)**

**Information Technology Infrastructure Library (ITIL) v3 Foundation Certificate**

**Certified People Tools Developer**

**Automation Anywhere Certified Advanced RPA Professional v11.0**

## TECHNICAL SKILLS

- ◆ **Databases:** Oracle Database 11, 12; Oracle E-Business Suite; IBM DB2; Sybase; Microsoft SQL Server; Microsoft Access; ODBC; JDBC; SQL; PL/SQL; ETL
- ◆ **Programming:** Visual Studio; Eclipse; Objective C; C#; Java; C++; C; Python; VBA; OOP
- ◆ **Middleware:** IBM WebSphere Message Broker; IBM MQ Series; Enterprise Service Bus; Electronic Data Interchange (EDI); ANSI X12; EDIFACT; ISO; Full-Stack; Perf Tuning
- ◆ **Scripting:** Perl; Bash; Csh; Cron Jobs; Awk; Ant; Unix Shell Scripting; vi; Blockchain
- ◆ **Web:** HTML; CSS; XML; XBRL; JavaScript; jQuery; Angular; AJAX; REST; MVC; Web Services; Service-oriented Architecture (SOA); Apache Tomcat; APIs; Junit; JavaDoc
- ◆ **Operating Systems:** Windows; MacOS; Linux; Solaris; iOS; RISC OS
- ◆ **Cloud Computing:** Amazon Web Services (AWS); Microsoft Azure; Dynamics 365
- ◆ **Applications:** Illustrator; Photoshop; Word; Excel; PowerPoint; Visio; SharePoint
- ◆ **Tools:** Subversion (SVN); Quest Toad; Archimedes Elite (ArcElite); WinRunner; ERwin

## LANGUAGES

- ◆ English (Native); Spanish (Native); Italian (Intermediate)