



March 22, 2017 Wyandotte Distinguished Graduate Inductee



Beth A. (Wagar) Bialy Class of 1981

Beth Bialy distinguished herself as a Certified Public Accountant and has enjoyed a successful career of over thirty years in Plante Moran's Governmental Group. Having never forgotten her downriver roots, Beth has stayed active in the downriver community. Beth graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1981 as Valedictorian. While at Roosevelt she was a member of the National Honor Society, of World as a Community (W.A.A.C.) and an original member of the Wyandotte Figure Skating Club.

At Wayne State University, Beth received four years paid tuition through a WSU Merit scholarship. While there, she received the Aubrey C. Roberts Award which is bestowed upon an accounting major who demonstrates high overall scholarship and outstanding academic achievement. She graduated with distinction in 1985 with a Bachelor of Business Administration Degree and passed all four parts of the CPA exam in her first attempt - a remarkable feat.

Beth began working for Plante Moran after receiving her Bachelor's Degree and has risen through the ranks during her 31 years of service to the firm. Beth is currently the firm leader of Plante Moran's Governmental Group. In this role, she is responsible for client relationships, work quality and staff development. Beth and her team of 200 government auditors specialize in local government auditing and consulting. Beth coordinates the ongoing audit engagements and compliance Single Audits for over 500 cities, counties, townships and special purpose government entities. She is a founding member of Plante Moran's Women in Leadership initiative as well as past office managing partner and immediate past chair of the firm's partner compensation committee. Through hard work and dedication, effective July 1, 2017, Beth will join the firm's management team and become Group Managing Partner – Public Sector and Not-for profit. This team of seven partners manages the firm's 2,300 staff.

She was appointed to the Michigan State Board of Accountancy by Governors John Engler and Jennifer Granholm. Beth also championed several pieces of legislation as Chair of the Michigan State Board of Accountancy including mandatory peer reviews for all CPA's and she helped enact legislation for license mobility for CPA's and whistleblower protections.

In 2014, Beth received the prestigious Being a Difference Award from the National Association of State Boards of Accountancy (NASBA) Center for the Public Trust. This award honors individuals for their exceptional contributions in the areas of ethical leadership in business and community impact. Beth recently received the Michigan Association of CPA's Distinguished Service Award for her accomplishments in passing legislation related to Whistleblower Protections and unlicensed activity.

Beth belongs to many professional associations, including the Government Finance Officers Association, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and the Michigan Government Finance Officers Association among them.

When her sons were younger, Beth was an active volunteer in the Wyandotte Hockey Association, together with serving on the St. Cyprian Church Finance Committee, tutoring math students and participating in high school internship readiness programs. She also advises several downriver communities and the Downriver Community Conference on issues related to fiscal responsibility.

Beth and her husband, John, live in Carleton and enjoy spending time with their family, Jon (Kim) and Jacob (Alyssa).