May 15, 2019

Karen C. Moody, CPA, CGMA, President/CEO
Michael Gladney, CPA, Peer Review Committee Chair
Mississippi Society of CPAs
306 Southampton Row
Ridgeland, MS  39157

Dear Ms. Moody and Mr. Gladney:

On May 9, 2019, the AICPA Peer Review Board Oversight Task Force accepted the report and letter of procedures and observations on the most recent oversight visit for the Mississippi Society of CPAs, the administering entity for the AICPA Peer Review Program, and the administering entity’s response thereto. A copy of this acknowledgement, the two oversight visit documents, and your response have now been posted to the AICPA Peer Review Program website.

The next administering entity oversight visit will be in 2020.

The AICPA Peer Review Board appreciates your cooperation and efforts in making the peer review program a success.

Sincerely,

Brian Bluhm

Brian Bluhm, CPA
Chair – Oversight Task Force
AICPA Peer Review Board

cc:  Noma Gillis, Peer Review Coordinator
     Mississippi Society of CPAs

     Laurel Gron, CPA, Senior Manager – Peer Review
     AICPA Peer Review Program
Oversight Visit Report

December 4, 2018

To the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants
Peer Review Committee

We have reviewed the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountant's administration of the AICPA Peer Review Program (program) as part of our oversight program. Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants is responsible for administering the program in Mississippi. Our procedures were conducted in conformity with the guidance established by the AICPA Peer Review Board (board) as contained in the AICPA Peer Review Program Oversight Handbook.

Administering Entity's Responsibility
The administering entity is responsible for administering the AICPA Peer Review Program in compliance with the AICPA Standards for Performing and Reporting on Peer Reviews, interpretations, and other guidance established by the board.

Oversight Task Force’s Responsibility
Our responsibility is to determine whether (1) administering entities are complying with the administrative procedures established by the board as set forth in the AICPA Peer Review Program Administrative Manual, (2) the reviews are being conducted and reported upon in accordance with the standards, (3) the results of the reviews are being evaluated on a consistent basis by all administering entity peer review committees, and (4) information disseminated by administering entities is accurate and timely.

Conclusion
Based on the results of the procedures performed, we have concluded that the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants has complied with the administrative procedures and standards in all material respects as established by the board.

As is customary, we have issued a letter of oversight visit procedures and observations that details the oversight procedures performed and sets forth recommendations that were not considered to be of sufficient significance to affect the conclusions expressed in this report.

Daniel K. Goff

Daniel K. Goff, Member, Oversight Task Force
AICPA Peer Review Program

220 Leigh Farm Road, Durham, NC, 27707-8110
T: +1.919.402.4502 F: +1.919.419.4713
aicpaglobal.com | cimaglobal.com | aicpa.org | cgma.org
December 4, 2018

To the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants
Peer Review Committee

We have reviewed Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants’ (MSCPA) administration of the AICPA Peer Review Program as part of our oversight program and have issued our report thereon dated December 4, 2018. That report should be read in conjunction with the observations in this letter, which were considered in determining our conclusions. The observations described below were not considered to be of sufficient significance to affect the conclusions expressed in that report.

The oversight visit was conducted according to the procedures in the AICPA Peer Review Program Oversight Handbook. An oversight program is designed to improve the administering entity’s administration of the AICPA Peer Review Program through feedback on its policies and procedures, and to provide resource assistance from an AICPA Peer Review Board Oversight Task Force member on both technical and administrative matters.

In conjunction with the oversight visit of the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants, the administering entity for the program, conducted on December 3-4, 2018, the following observations are being communicated.

**Administrative Procedures**

On December 3, 2018, Susan Lieberum, Associate Director-Peer Review-Public Accounting at the AICPA, and I met with the Peer Review Coordinator to review the program’s administration. We believe the administrative processes were being handled in a manner consistent with peer review standards.

We reviewed the files, which were still open due to follow-up actions, which had not yet been completed. We found that the follow-up actions were being effectively monitored for completion by the administrative staff and the peer review committee.

We also reviewed the policies and procedures for the granting of extensions. We found that the Peer Review Coordinator handles short-term extension requests with discussion from the committee when the circumstances warrant.

We also reviewed the timeliness of technical reviews and the preparation of committee decision letters. We found no problems in these areas.

The MSCPA has developed a backup plan to support the administrator and technical reviewer if they become unable to serve in their respective capacities.
Website Information
We met with the Peer Review Coordinator to review the administering entity’s procedures to determine if the information disseminated regarding the AICPA Peer Review Program by the administering entity on their website is accurate and timely.

After the AICPA staff’s review of the website material that noted several broken links, we reviewed the website and noted that all broken links were repaired and were functioning properly. We noted that the administering entity maintains current information as it relates to the peer review program.

Working Paper Retention
According to discussions with the Peer Review Coordinator, we found compliance with the working paper retention policies for completed reviews.

Technical Review Procedures
On December 3, 2018, we met with the technical reviewer to discuss procedures. She performs all technical reviews.

We reviewed the reports, letters of response, if applicable, and the working papers for several reviews being presented to the report acceptance body (RAB) on December 4, 2018. We noted reviews in which technical matters had not been sufficiently addressed by the technical reviewer, resulting in extended discussion by the RAB, as well as the delay or deferral of several reviews. The matters noted included, but were not limited to, the following-

- On five system reviews, the peer review documentation did not include consideration of peer review matters related to completion of all required peer review checklists, documentation and reporting of noncompliance with risk assessment standards, full explanation of items discussed at the exit conference and why they did not result in reporting at a higher level, full documentation of nonattest services, and the team captain’s explanation for why an engagement was not deemed nonconforming when multiple bolded questions were answered no.
- Modification to the reviewer feedback due to the considerations noted above.

Review Presentation
On December 4, 2018, we attended the RAB meeting in which we observed the RAB’s acceptance process and offered our comments at the close of discussion for several reviews. As detailed above, we noted reviews which were presented to the RAB with open technical issues. There were instances in which such issues were not identified by the RAB, rather considered after our comments; however, the more substantive issues were appropriately identified and considered by the RAB. The RAB’s consideration of those comments resulted in certain reviews being delayed or deferred, as well as reviewer feedback being provided to reviewers.
Committee Procedures
We met with the committee chair and discussed their procedures for disseminating the comments resulting from RAB observation reports to the appropriate individuals.

On December 4, 2018, we attended the off-site peer review committee meeting, as well as the off-site RAB meeting. We observed the RAB’s acceptance process and offered our comments at the close of discussions.

The RAB meeting was very orderly and it was apparent that the committee members had reviewed the reports and working papers prior to the meeting and had a good understanding of the program to reach an appropriate decision for each review.

Appropriate decisions were made in the acceptance process, including assigned corrective actions and reviewer monitoring. Reviews were being presented to the RABs on a timely basis.

Oversight Program
The Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants peer review committee has adopted a formal oversight program that is well documented. We reviewed the document and procedures performed and found it to be comprehensive.

Summary
Our observations to enhance Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants’ administration of the program are summarized as follows:

- The technical reviewer should ensure that all technical matters are addressed prior to reviews being presented to the RAB, or in circumstances that the technical reviewer has identified matters that warrant RAB consideration, specifically identify those matters in the materials provided to the RAB members for their consideration during their preparation for the RAB meeting.

Daniel K. Goff

Daniel K. Goff, Member, Oversight Task Force
AICPA Peer Review Program
April 23, 2019

Mr. Brian Bluhm, CPA
Oversight Task Force
AICPA Peer Review Board
Palladian I Corporate Center
220 Leigh Farm Road
Durham, NC 27707-8110

Re: Oversight Visit to Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants

Dear Mr. Bluhm:

This letter represents our response to the report and letter of procedures and observations issued in connection with the review of the Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants' administration of the AICPA Peer Review Program (program) performed on December 3-4, 2018. The matters discussed herein were brought to the attention of all peer review program committee members, administrative staff, and technical reviewer(s). In addition, the matters discussed in this letter will be monitored to ensure they are effectively implemented as part of our administration of the AICPA Peer Review Program.

Technical Review Procedures

We discussed the matters noted from the RAB observation that were detailed in this section. Several issues were noted involving the technical reviewer as not being sufficiently addressed by the technical reviewer prior to presentation to the RAB. We do not believe that the description of these matters gives a completely accurate picture of the various matters identified. The discussion also seems to bring undue criticism on the technical reviewer. However, after further discussion with the individuals involved in the oversight, we will accept the matters as identified and pledge to work together with the technical reviewer and attempt to better resolve all open technical issues prior to the RAB meetings.

We appreciate Dan Goff’s and Sue Lieberum’s constructive advice and suggestions and the time and effort they have invested in the AICPA Peer Review Program. We understand and respect the commitments they have made. We also thank them for the help and recommendations they provided our Committee as a part of the recent oversight. We are committed to properly carrying out our duties in our roles in the Program.
Sincerely,

Karen C. Moody
Karen C. Moody, CPA, CGMA
Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants Chief Executive Officer

Michael H. Gladney, CPA
Mississippi Society of Certified Public Accountants Peer Review Committee Chair