

## So. California Accounting Firms Merge

ISAAC M. O'BANNON, MANAGING EDITOR ON FEB 3, 2017



The California accounting firms of Haskell & White LLP and Katherman Kitts & Co. LLP have combined their practices, effective Feb. 1, 2017, and are now operating under the Haskell & White name. The expansion bolstered the combined international tax practice and increased the team of highly skilled CPAs. The entire team at Katherman Kitts & Co. moved to Haskell & White, and James Katherman and Stacie Kitts joined the firm as partners.

The unification of these two experienced and well-respected organizations comes at a time when the nation's tax laws are on the brink of a major overhaul, and clients will require more guidance than ever. By combining the staffs and resources of both teams under the prestigious Haskell & White brand, all clients will have access to an extremely deep bench of hard-working and talented CPAs, now totaling more than 75 professionals.

“With this combination, Haskell & White enhances its already robust standing in the market. We will add more capabilities, including Katherman Kitts & Co.'s deep experience with technology companies and international tax expertise, to bring an even greater level of service to the clients of both firms,” said Haskell & White's Managing Partner Wayne Pinnell. “Having worked in the same building with Katherman Kitts & Co. for several years, we have gotten to know them personally as well as professionally, and we believe the cultures of our teams will blend seamlessly while producing excellent results.”

By joining Haskell & White, one of Southern California's largest independently owned accounting, auditing and tax consulting firms, the clients of Katherman Kitts & Co. will gain access to Haskell & White's superb team of professionals and numerous resources and benefits that have been a hallmark of Haskell & White for decades. These capabilities include a team of audit professionals able to provide reviews, financial audits and retirement plan auditing, as well as access to a worldwide network of CPA firms in the Leading Edge Alliance.

In a joint statement, Katherman and Kitts said, “We are very much looking forward to this new relationship with Haskell & White as it is an excellent move for our team at Katherman Kitts & Co. and – more importantly – it will bring even greater value to our clients, give our employees considerable growth opportunities and allow for operating efficiencies.”

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Katherman emphasized that since Haskell & White shares similar client service philosophies, the business combination will not change the clients' fee structure and the hands-on attention they are accustomed to receiving.