

MELISSA DUNHAM AND JAMES SKAKUN NAMED PARTNER



It is with great pride and purpose that we announce the appointment of **Melissa G. Dunham, CPA, MTax, MBA**, and **James B. Skakun, CPA**, as our newest partners. Their exceptional expertise and leadership will further strengthen BMF's capabilities in delivering unparalleled value to its clients.



Melissa specializes in corporate tax returns, offering comprehensive tax planning strategies for various entities including C corporations, S corporations, partnerships, and LLCs. Her meticulous approach ensures precision and efficiency in handling clients' tax matters. Melissa's subject matter expertise in **Employer Retention Credit** program reimbursements has been instrumental in optimizing benefits for clients during the pandemic.

With a career spanning nearly two decades at BMF, Melissa has demonstrated exceptional leadership and contributed significantly to the firm's success. She has led management initiatives and exemplified a client-centric approach, fostering strong relationships. In addition to her professional achievements, Melissa actively engages in community organizations, supporting causes such as Community Support Services, Tax Club of Cleveland, The Blick Center and Girl

Scouts of Northeast Ohio.

Melissa holds a bachelor's degree in accounting from Westminster College, an MBA from Kent State University, and a Master of Taxation from The University of Akron. Her outstanding contributions have been recognized with prestigious accolades, including a Woman of Professional Excellence award presented by the Women's Network and the 30 For the Future Award from the Greater Akron Chamber.



James began his career with BMF in 2011 and has been a key contributor to the firm's success. He is regarded as a trusted tax advisor to private companies operating in multiple states while navigating the complexities of tax laws and implementing key tax strategies to achieve client goals. James also works with the firm's Transaction Advisory Services practice on all the tax due diligence projects by assisting with tax structuring, identifying potential issues and exposures, and planning for potential

opportunities.

James' exceptional leadership and mentorship have played a vital role in fostering a culture of continuous learning and professional growth at BMF. He has served on numerous committees within the firm as well as serving his community. James previously served on the board of directors for Torchbearers and Rebuilding Northeast Ohio Together, and currently serves on the Board of Directors of First Tee of Greater Akron. Additionally, he was recognized as a young leader in 2016 and the 30 For the Future Award from the Greater Akron Chamber. Skakun holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with a specialization in Accountancy from Miami University, and a Master of Science in Accountancy with a focus on Taxation from the University of Notre Dame.

We are thrilled to welcome Melissa and James as partners. Their exceptional expertise and commitment to excellence align perfectly with our firm's values. We look forward to their contributions in shaping our firm's future and providing outstanding client service.

- *Theodore A. Wagner, partner and executive committee member*