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## HA&W's PHILIP BRUDNEY AMONG HIGHEST SCORERS IN THE NATION ON THE CPA EXAM

*Receives Elijah Watt Sells award for his incredible accomplishment*

ATLANTA-DATE- Habif, Arogeti & Wynne, LLP (HA&W), Georgia's largest independent accounting firm, is proud to announce that Philip Brudney, tax CPA, scored among the highest scorers in the nation on the certified public accountants (CPA) exam, earning him the Elijah Watt Sells Award.

Brudney was one of 37 people in the nation to receive the Elijah Watt Sells Award, presented annually, for achieving a minimum cumulative score of 95.5 across all four sections of the exam. More than 90,000 CPA candidates sat for the exam in 2011, and only 37 scored high enough to receive this outstanding award.

The CPA exam is composed of four sections, Auditing and Attestation, Business Environment and Concepts, Financial Accounting and Reporting and Regulation. All four tests must be completed within an 18 month time period to become a CPA. Brudney completed all four tests in only four months. He spent around 100 hours studying per test, doing practice problems mainly from Becker.

Brudney was honored to receive the award: "Right before the September 15 deadline, the AICPA sent me a letter by email. I almost thought it was spam, but I read through it and saw it was the real thing. I was really excited! I was too excited to get any work done, so I took the evening off," said Brudney.

HA&W is known to attract top professional who win this award, like Yelena Epova, who is the partner in charge of HA&W's international service line and has been with Firm for almost 20 years. Epova won the Elijah Watt Sells Award in 1994. "It definitely made me very proud to win the award, since at that time the award recognized only the top 150 scores out of 75,000 CPA exam takers. When I took the exam, my English was not very strong, so I was very surprised at how well I did," said Epova.

"To provide our clients with world-class service, we hire, train and retain world-class talent," said Robert Verzi, HA&W tax partner. "Our culture is focused on enabling the success of not only our clients and community, but also our colleagues. Philip is a good example of the type of people who work hard every day to service our clients.

After obtaining a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from The University of Georgia (UGA) in 2010, Brudney furthered his schooling at UGA and received a Master's of Accountancy in 2011.

While still in school, Brudney completed an internship at HA&W, and was offered a full-time position thereafter. "I think HA&W is a great place to work. I like the people I work with, and I like that I'm given a lot of responsibility coupled with direct access to all of the partners. It's clear to me that they're interested in my long-term growth," said Brudney.

In his spare time, Brudney likes to run, play piano and cook. His advice to candidates studying for the exam is: "Be confident that if you put the time in, you will pass. Don't try to take any shortcuts."

For more information about Habif, Arogeti & Wynne, LLP, visit [www.hawcpa.com](http://www.hawcpa.com) or call 404-892-9651. To learn more about the Elijah Watt Sells award, visit [www.aicpa.org](http://www.aicpa.org).

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Companies looking to increase profitability, streamline processes that improve financial reporting, and reduce the time and costs associated with audits, tax planning and compliance choose HA&W. Quicker answers, avoiding unforeseen pitfalls, becoming a better business for the long-run. These are just a few of the benefits clients routinely experience when working with HA&W.

Starting up, growing or getting ready to transition? Operating locally, nationally or globally? HA&W meets you there and gets you where you want to be. Be Successful.

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