

The Mercadien Group Launches New Practice Providing Internal Audit Services to Community Banks - Welcomes New Principal and Managing Director, Salvatore Zerilli, CPA, CAMS



Mercadien, P.C., Certified Public Accountants, a leading accounting, auditing, and tax services firm, is pleased to welcome Salvatore Zerilli, CPA, CAMS as a principal in Mercadien, P.C., CPAs and a managing director of The Mercadien Group. A seasoned public accounting professional, Zerilli specializes in performing outsourced internal audit services for community banks, credit unions, and United States branches of foreign institutions. Such services comprise a wide array of internal audits which are inclusive of the Bank Secrecy Act (BSA)/USA PATRIOT Act, allowance for loan and lease losses, asset/liability management, liquidity management, information technology, and regulatory compliance, among others.

Shortly after the September 11 attacks, the government instituted the USA PATRIOT Act, which placed further regulatory guidelines on the banking industry. Soon thereafter, Zerilli became a Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist (CAMS) by successfully completing a rigorous examination designed by financial services industry leaders and an independent testing firm. The examination provides an objective measure of a professional's knowledge of industry best practices, anti-money laundering standards, and other areas that are crucial in the field. Zerilli works with financial institutions to ensure that they have properly implemented compliance programs which meet the scrutiny of federal and state regulators. Well-versed in the various software applications for BSA compliance, Zerilli is a highly sought-after expert in this area.

Armed with more than a decade of banking industry experience and Bachelor of Science in Accounting from the University of Albany (magna cum laude), Zerilli formerly served as an auditor for Ernst & Young in the company's financial services industry performing external audits of community and commercial banks. He then served in positions for various New York City banks including vice president and controller. Zerilli's duties included supervising the financial accounting, deposit and loan operations, information technology, and human resources departments. He then served as a director in a regional accounting and consulting firm in central New Jersey where he was responsible for overseeing the outsourced internal audit engagement for over 35 financial institutions. This experience in the industry gives Zerilli familiarity and hands-on knowledge relating to the internal operations of a bank.

Zerilli is a member of the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants and the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants. He is also an active member of the Financial Managers Society (New York/New Jersey and Philadelphia Chapters) as well as an active member of the

Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists. Zerilli resides in Old Bridge with his wife and two children.

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