

January Member of the Month by Ellen R. Cohen

Gail Fisher

“I can keep you out of jail!” says Gail Fisher, a CPA with E. Cohen and Company, CPAs. A manager in the tax department, Gail trains and supervises the staff, does technical reviews of their tax returns, and makes sure that everything done on behalf of clients complies with appropriate tax law.

She also interacts with clients planning transactions or making tax implication decisions. For example, they may have questions about tax issues related to leasing or buying a vehicle for their business. Writing a will and other proposed client transactions also often involve non-economical, intellectual or emotional factors as well as tax implications. For clients who are being audited in connection with payroll or individual tax returns, Gail will write letters, call the IRS, or represent clients at an audit. Clients always appreciate Gail’s calm demeanor, often not realizing that she brings with her those “teacher skills” that she used while she taught math at the college level for 10 years.

Gail, who became a CPA at age 35, had her own practice for 10 years. She understands what it means to keep one’s own books. She also served as a comptroller for two different corporations early on, and this has given her a broad background that is extremely helpful. Believing that hers is a service profession, Gail feels strongly about helping all of her clients, particularly women, and loves the “people contact” and the problem solving that makes her feel good about what she does.

“While today’s women have more skills and confidence,” she says, “there are still many who are overwhelmed.” Gail loves advising them, gaining their trust, and working with them and with the other CPAs in her firm. E. Cohen and Company is a full service firm providing audit, review, tax, accounting and consulting services. “Our CPAs have the same technical ability of larger CPA firms, but we believe in providing better customer service and growing with our clients,” says Gail. E. Cohen’s tax practice includes business taxes, taxes of individuals associated with the businesses they represent, taxes for individuals referred by the company’s business clients, financial planners, and attorneys. The firm specializes in government contractors, real estate, professional services, not-for-profit, retail, and wholesale industries.

A recent WBO member, Gail describes our group as “very professional” and particularly appreciates the “high level programming.” Originally from Minnesota, Gail has lived in the DC area since 1980. When she is not working, she likes to be outdoors. She belongs to several hiking groups, enjoys using her canoe and camping gear, and also likes to read, embroider and knit.

If you have tax questions, visit www.ecohencpas.com, email Gail at gfisher@ecohencpas.com, or call her at (301) 917-6222.

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