

Celebrating International Women's Day in Accounting

The accounting industry has historically been a male-dominated profession but is one where the tides are changing rapidly. Today, [women make up](#) 61% of all accountants and auditors in the United States and comprise half of all the full-time staff at CPA firms. This representation is not necessarily present at the senior level; however, as [McKinsey has shown](#) women across industries are underrepresented as one climbs the corporate ladder. Although it is still a work in progress, within the accounting industry women are becoming more present in leadership even within just the past few [years](#), and given a platform to contribute their valuable knowledge, insight, and creativity to the changing profession.

Every year on March 8th we celebrate International Women's Day, a tradition [rooting back to the early 1900s](#) when women started to become more vocal about their demands for rights and equality. To celebrate the courageous, intelligent, and remarkable accomplishments of women on this day, we are showcasing five women in the accounting industry who are pioneers, leaders, and an inspiration to the next generation of professionals.

Women Who Paved the Way

Mary T. Washington Wiley

In 1943, Washington Wylie became the [first Black woman](#) in the United States to earn a CPA license and started her legacy of mentoring and encouraging other Black CPAs to follow her path. She founded her own firm and worked with clients including non-for-profits and Black-owned businesses, notably Fuller Products Company which made beauty products for the Black community.

Theodora Rutherford

Rutherford was the [first](#) Black woman to graduate with a master's degree in accounting from Columbia University in 1924. She spent much of her subsequent career working in other jobs, as she did not meet all the necessary qualifications to practice in New York until the 1950s when she went on to become the first Black woman CPA in West Virginia.

Leaders of Today

Tifphani White-King

As the International Tax Services Practice Leader for [Mazars](#), King has extensive experience working with companies of all sizes and advising on financial structuring. She has committed her career to learning and is known as a [brilliant international tax accountant](#) and a leader in her field, with a career that includes of big companies like Arthur Anderson, Deloitte, and Mazars.

Andrea Garcia

Leveraging her ability to [speak both English and Spanish](#), Garcia has expanded her client base by offering bilingual services to clients in the Hispanic community. As a founder of her own firm, she has broken barriers in the industry and embraced the freedom that comes with running your own

business. She is an advocate for mentorship and internship programs, and the valuable experience they provide.

Arianna Campbell

Named one of the Most Powerful Women in Accounting by [CPA Practice Advisor](#) in 2017, Campbell is a Consultant at Boomer Inc. and considers herself as a Progressive Accounting Business Strategist. Constantly [seeking](#) to disrupt the status quo, she is a decorated professional, speaker, and author who has initiated programs to improve businesses and foster leadership.