

## Call for Papers

### *Current Issues in Auditing:* Private Equity Impact on Auditing



The relationship between private equity (PE) firms and public accounting firms is growing rapidly. PE sees accounting firms as attractive investment targets because of predictable revenue, fragmentation, expansion opportunities, and technology/talent investment needs. Accounting firms, especially mid-sized ones, are increasingly partnering with PE to gain capital, scale, and growth. However, this trend raises important questions around audit independence, culture, governance, and whether the traditional accounting partnership model is evolving (or being disrupted).

Given the widespread impact that PE may have when investing in a public accounting firm on its assurance/auditing practice, we are seeking to advance the knowledge of how PE investment in accounting firms may affect audit practice. We encourage submissions of well-written papers of 2,500 words or fewer from both practitioners and academics that explore this area. Practice summaries of previously published articles that focus on this topic are also encouraged. Questions that might be investigated include, but are not limited to:

- How will audit quality, independence, regulatory compliance be safeguarded amid growth/roll-up activity?
- What is the ownership structure exactly? Is the audit arm legally separate and CPA-owned? Is the PE investor in a non-attest arm or the whole firm? How does this line up with what is allowed per audit firm structure standards?
- How will governance change? Who sits on the board? What rights does the PE investor have around strategy, budgets, M&A?
- What is the strategy/growth/exit plan? What is the timeline the PE investor has in mind for return on investment? How will the planned return on investment be accomplished?
- How will the culture and compensation model change? Will there be increased pressure for acquisitions, margin improvement, cost control?
- How will the firm's service mix evolve? Will there be increased emphasis on advisory services vs. attest/audit?
- For partners: What liquidity options are there? What is the partner equity structure now? Are younger staff being given different incentive models?
- For staff: How might career paths change under a PE-backed model (e.g., more acquisitions, integration, perhaps more change or instability)?

**Paper submissions:** The deadline for submissions is **May 30, 2026**. Paper submissions should follow the CIIA editorial policy and be submitted using the AAA's manuscript management system (<https://aaahq.org/Research/Journals/Current-Issues-in-Auditing>). If you have questions, please contact Co-editor Nicole S. Wright at [wrightns@jmu.edu](mailto:wrightns@jmu.edu).