



## HCCP Board of Governors Spotlight: Julie A Kafka

*Partner, CPA, HCCP*  
Eide Bailly LLP

Julie Kafka is an assurance partner with Eide Bailly LLP out of the Sioux Falls, S.D., office and has been with the firm for 30 years. She provides audit and accounting services, specializing in the real estate and affordable housing industry (LIHTC, Rural Development, HUD). She also provides related consulting services, including cost certifications, financial forecasts, tenant file reviews and electronic filings. Julie also provides tax and technical services for individuals, partnerships and other entities.

Julie is a Certified Public Accountant and a Housing Credit Certified Professional. She currently serves on the Board of Governors for the NAHB Housing Credit Certified Professional and on the Advisory Board for the Sioux Falls Academy of Finance.

### **How has the HCCP designation impacted your career?**

Obtaining the HCCP designation has allowed me to focus in the low-income housing tax credit (LIHTC) industry, so that not only can I provide the traditional tax and audit services, but can provide compliance services and consult on issues directly impacting the LIHTC industry. Being involved with the HCCP Board of Governors, and with other industry groups, has allowed me to interact with so many exceptional professionals in our industry. I've learned a lot from my peers, and it is such a benefit to have others to discuss the everchanging rules and technical issues with.



### **How did you get into the LIHTC industry?**

Not long after I started with Eide Bailly, I was asked to assist in preparing financial forecasts for several LIHTC properties that were applying for credits. Through that process, I researched and learned a lot about the LIHTC industry. As our firm was providing audit and tax services for many of these LIHTC properties, it was a natural fit for me to move into that industry, and I've enjoyed it ever since. The 30 years I've spent working my way up in my firm and working in the affordable housing industry have been rewarding.

### **What are your day-to-day responsibilities?**

As an assurance partner with Eide Bailly, I oversee a portfolio of audits and tax returns, along with consulting work and special projects as they arise. My time is focused on serving our external clients (developers, owners, syndicators, property managers, state agencies, attorneys) and our internal clients (our staff, my partners, consultants). Day to day I'm working with our staff on the various audits and tax work and answering questions as they arise. I also work with clients and industry professionals on myriad topics from basic accounting issues to the complex LIHTC implementation issues. I can truly say that in public accounting no two days are alike, and you never get bored!

### **What helped with your success in the LIHTC industry?**

As I mentioned earlier, the network of other HCCPs I have met have truly been an asset. Knowing I have those resources when needed has been so helpful over the years. Also, the various industry seminars and trainings, whether through the NAHB, NCSHA, state housing agencies, and various trainers help keep us all on top of the new regulations, and give us the opportunity to share our issues and ideas for working through them.

### **What's your favorite hobby?**

I'm an accountant, so for several winter months, hobbies don't exist! But for most of the year, you will find me camping, traveling and exploring. Whether it's visiting a different state or city, a park I've never been to, or even just a new restaurant, I love creating new experiences.

Family is also very important to me. I try to help out on our family farm whenever I can. I also have two sons that keep me busy: one who is 24 and lives in Minneapolis so we make several trips there to visit, and the other who is 17 and very involved in all things music. I'm learning what it means to be a show choir mom!