

SYRENA SHIRLEY, PhD, CFA, CPAColumbia Business School - Kravis Hall 1101 665 W 130th St. New York, NY 10027sts2173@gsb.columbia.edu**ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE**

Columbia Business School (CBS) – Assistant Professor	2023 – present
Columbia Law School – Ira M. Millstein Center, Academic Fellow	2023 – present
George Mason University, School of Business – Assistant Professor	2021 – 2023 ¹
George Mason University, School of Business – Term Instructor	2020 – 2021

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Business Administration, Accounting Concentration	2020
The Pennsylvania State University (PSU), Smeal College of Business – University Park, PA	
B.S., Accounting; Minor: French (Summa Cum Laude)	2005
Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY	

RESEARCH

Research interests:

Corporate governance, corporate litigation, securities regulation, corporate misconduct, public corruption, audit, debt contracting and pensions

Publications:

The Structure of State Auditor Functions in the Fight Against Corruption (with Renee Flasher and James Higgins), *Current Issues in Auditing* 1 March 2022; 16 (1): A18–A26.

Working papers:

- Crime and Punishment: Corporate Criminal Prosecution and Corporate Governance** (with Veronica Root-Martinez)
- The Chief Legal Officer as the Corporate Secretary: An Expert or Conflicted Board Advisor?** (with J.K. Aier, Yo-Jud Cheng and Justin Hopkins) *Inaugural winner of the 2024 Carl Liggio Memorial Paper Competition (sponsored by the Association of Corporate Counsel)*
- CSR under the pressure of financial shocks** (with Monica Kabutey, Hayley Ma and Anywhere Sikochi)
- External Auditors and the Detection of Corporate Fraud** (with Ivy Munoko and Triza Nganga) *2024 recipient of Association of Fraud Examiners (ACFE) Research grant*

¹ Parental leave Fall 2021/Spring 2022

Work in progress:

1. **Common Ownership and Legal Risk** (with Zahn Bozanic, Rebecca Files and Bret Johnson)
2. **Ethics Commissions and Internal Control Quality: Evidence from State and Local Governments** (with Jennifer Bott, Renee Flasher, and Mark Myring)

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

- 2026 The Mediterranean Accounting Research Conference
Canadian Academic Accounting Association Conference
UC Berkeley (*scheduled*)
- 2025 Columbia Business School – Burton Accounting Research Conference
Virtual Compliance Workshop
- 2024 Notre Dame Law and Economics Workshop
University of Delaware Weinberg Center/ECGI 2024 Corporate Governance Symposium
Dartmouth - Tuck Spring Accounting Workshop
The University of Manitoba (*presenter and discussant*)
- 2023 AAA Sustainability, ESG, and Accounting Conference
UVA Corporate Compliance Roundtable
American Law and Economics Association Annual meeting
The American Accounting Association (AAA) Annual meeting
Columbia Business School – Burton Accounting Research Conference
- 2022 Columbia Business School
- 2021 Harvard Business School
AAA Forensic Accounting Section Research Conference
- 2020 George Mason University
Georgetown University
The University of Texas at El Paso
The Wharton School, The University of Pennsylvania
- 2019 AAA/University of Miami Accounting PhD Rookie Recruiting and Research Camp
AAA/Deloitte Foundation/J. Michael Cook Doctoral Consortium
PhD Project and Baruch College Research Symposium
- 2018 Accounting Doctoral Student Association (ADSA) Annual Conference, The PhD Project (*presenter and discussant*)

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- 2026 The Compliance Forum at Duke Law School
American Law Institute, Principles of the Law: Compliance and Enforcement for Organizations (Brooklyn Law School)
Columbia Junior Accounting Conference
NYU Four-School Accounting Research Conference
Program on Corporate Compliance and Enforcement at NYU School of Law
Baruch College - The 24th Annual Financial Reporting Conference
Columbia Management Accounting Conference
ESMT Berlin Junior Accounting Conference
The Mediterranean Accounting Research Conference
Canadian Academic Accounting Association Conference

- 2025 Columbia Junior Accounting Conference
Columbia Law School - Bylaws, Bills, and Ballots Conference (*panelist*)
Columbia Accounting Theory Conference
Baruch College - The 23rd Annual Financial Reporting Conference
11th Annual Cherry Blossom Accounting Conference (George Washington University)
7th Annual PhD Project - Baruch Research Symposium (*luncheon speaker*)
Columbia Management Accounting Conference
American Law and Economics Association (ALEA) Annual meeting
ESMT Berlin Junior Accounting Conference
The Tenure Project Conference at University of Michigan
AAA Annual Meeting (*discussant*)
Yale Municipal Research Conference
- 2024 Columbia Junior Accounting Conference
6th Annual PhD Project - Baruch Research Symposium (*panelist*)
Penn State University Accounting Research Conference
Baruch College - The 22nd Annual Financial Reporting Conference
The Tenure Project Conference at University of Southern California
Columbia Burton Accounting Conference
Conference on Field Experiments in Accounting and Finance (Georgetown University)
- 2023 FARS Midyear Meeting
AAA Sustainability, ESG, and Accounting Conference
Columbia Junior Accounting Conference
University of Illinois Young Scholar Research Symposium VI
UVA Corporate Compliance Roundtable
Penn State University Accounting Research Conference
American Law and Economics Association (ALEA) Annual meeting
The Tenure Project Conference at The Wharton School
AAA Annual Meeting
AAA Diversity Section Meeting
Corporate Secretary Forum
Columbia Burton Accounting Conference
- 2022 The Journal of Financial Reporting: Improving Financial Reporting Conference (*discussant*)
Virginia Accounting Research Conference
AAA Forensic Accounting Section Research Conference
AAA Government and Nonprofit Section Midyear Meeting
AAA New Faculty Consortium
- 2021 AAA Annual Meeting (*discussant, moderator*)
AAA Government and Nonprofit Section Midyear Meeting (*discussant*)
AAA Forensic Accounting Section Research Conference
AAA Financial Accounting and Reporting Section Midyear Meeting
University of Illinois Young Scholar Research Symposium V
Deloitte Foundation/FSA Faculty Consortium
Journal of Business Finance & Accounting (JBFA) Capital Markets Conference
- 2020 Strategies for Success in the College Classroom workshop - The PhD Project and Bentley University
AAA Annual Meeting
Accounting Doctoral Student Association Annual Conference, The PhD Project

- 2019 Journal of Accounting and Economics (JAE) Conference
 AAA Annual Meeting (*discussant*)
 AAA/Deloitte Foundation/J. Michael Cook Doctoral Consortium
 Midwest Accounting Research Conference
 PhD Project and Baruch College Research Symposium
- 2018 AAA Annual Meeting (*moderator*)
 Accounting Doctoral Student Association Annual Conference, The PhD Project
 Wharton Theory Boot Camp for Empiricists
 Accounting Research Conference, Penn State University
- 2017 AAA Annual Meeting
 Accounting Doctoral Student Association Annual Conference, The PhD Project
 Cornell Financial Reporting Mini Research Camp
 Accounting Research Conference, Penn State University
- 2016 Accounting Research Conference, Penn State University
- 2015 AAA Annual Meeting
 Accounting Doctoral Student Association (ADSA) Annual Conference, The PhD Project

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2025 **Columbia Business School – Financial Accounting** (Graduate) (Fall)
- 2024 **Columbia Business School – Financial Accounting** (Graduate) (Spring, Fall)
- 2022 **George Mason University, School of Business - Fraud Examination** (Graduate) (Spring, Fall)
- 2020 **George Mason University, School of Business - Fraud Examination** (Graduate) (Fall)
- 2017-2018 **The Pennsylvania State University, Smeal College of Business - Intermediate Accounting I** (Undergraduate) (Summer)
- 2016 **The Pennsylvania State University, Smeal College of Business - Financial and Managerial Accounting for Decision Making** (Undergraduate) (Summer)
- 2016-2019 **The Pennsylvania State University, Smeal College of Business - Business Opportunities Summer Sessions (BOSS) for High School students** (Summer, Accounting Instructor)
- 2015-2016 **The Pennsylvania State University, Smeal College of Business - Financial and Managerial Accounting for Decision Making** (Undergraduate) (Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Teaching Assistant)

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2024 Winner of the 2024 Association of Corporate Counsel Carl Liggio Memorial Paper Competition
- 2024 Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE) Foundation Research Grant
- 2021 Best Paper Award - Forensic Accounting Section Research Conference
- 2019 AICPA Fellowship for Minority Doctoral Students
- 2018 AICPA Fellowship for Minority Doctoral Students
Diversity Scholars Fellowship – Ithaca College Finger Lakes Environmental Film Festival (FLEFF)
- 2017 AICPA Fellowship for Minority Doctoral Students
Jane O. Burns Graduate Scholarship – Penn State University
- 2016 AICPA Fellowship for Minority Doctoral Students
- 2015 AICPA Fellowship for Minority Doctoral Students

MEMBERSHIP AND SERVICE

- Faculty Advisor, CBS – Study Tour (Jamaica) 2026
- Association of Corporate Counsel Carl Liggio Paper Competition,
Review committee member 2025, 2026
- CBS Accounting Division research seminar co-organizer (2024 – present)
- CBS Burton Accounting Conference co-organizer (2024 – present)
- American Accounting Association, *Member* (2016 – present)
- AAA - FARS Mentorship Committee, *Member* (2023 – 2024)
- National Association of Black Accountants (NABA) GMU Student Chapter,
Faculty Advisor (2022 – 2023)
- AAA - FARS CPA Committee, *Member* (2022 – 2023)
- Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (ACFE), *Member* (2020 – 2023)
- Smeal College of Business Committee for Diversity, *Member* (2016 – 2020)
- The PhD Project ADSA 2019 Conference Planning Committee, *Secretary* (2018 – 2019)
- Smeal College of Business PhD Students Association, *President* (2017 – 2019)
- Smeal College of Business AACSB re-accreditation process, *PhD student participant* (03/2019)
- The PhD Project Annual Conference, *Recruiter (PSU)* (2017 & 2018)
- DocNet PhD Recruiting Event (Chicago), *Recruiter (PSU)* (2017 & 2018)
- The PhD Project ADSA 2018 Conference Planning Committee, *Secretary-elect* (2017 – 2018)
- Smeal College of Business PhD Students Association, *E-board member* (2016 – 2017)

PROFESSIONAL WORK EXPERIENCE

Vice President/Associate/Analyst, Global Real Assets (2007 – 2015)
J.P. Morgan Asset Management, New York, NY
J.P. Morgan Asset Management, Mumbai, India

Senior Associate/Associate, Audit and Advisory (2005 – 2007)
KPMG LLP, New York, NY

Intern, Audit and Advisory (Summer 2004)
KPMG LLP, New York, NY

OUTSIDE ACTIVITIES (required conflict of interest disclosure)

None