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Stacey Barbaro, CPA, MBA is a senior manager at the Woodbury accounting, tax and advisory firm WeiserMazars LLP. Barbaro's 24 years of experience primarily focuses on accounting and both business and personal tax issues for clients in the real estate industry as well as distribution services and personal services. Her extensive tax expertise allows her to be a trusted advisor to the firm's high net worth individuals.

The IRS' final Tangible Property Regulations ("repair regs") have been a primary focus for Barbaro over the last year, especially for her real estate clients.

"We have worked diligently to take every advantage possible, as well as keep our clients protected under these new and constantly changing rules," Barbaro said.

Within public accounting, Barbaro has witnessed a recent increase in awareness and attention to work/life balance.

"I have been a strong promoter for work/life balance, as I, myself, have two teenage children at home," Barbaro said. "Public accounting can be challenging with demanding tax season deadlines. Accounting firms now realize that work/life balance is not a luxury but rather a necessity to retain trained staff members. I am thankful for modern day technology such as paperless offices and smart phones that allow me to manage a full workload and still have time to be there for my family."

Barbar who has always been involved in Wesie wars women's initiatives, has seen an increase in mentoring groups within the workforce for professional women who are striving to achieve work/ life balance.

"I attend the Mom-mentum women's leadership conference each year," she said. "This group engages, enriches and empowers women. I keep this philosophy true to heart by trying to empower other female co-workers, clients and friends. I consider myself a pioneer in this area."

"When I completed my master's thesis in the mid-1990s I had no idea how important work life balance would be to me one day," Barbaro noted. "My thesis focused on ways to retain and promote women in public accounting, as too many women were leaving the profession before reaching the manager level due to a lack of understanding of work/life balance from their employers."

Barbaro is a member of the American Institute of CPAs and the New York State Society of CPAs. She earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from St. Joseph's College and a MBA from Hofstra University. She is also a member of WeiserMazars real estate group.

WeiserMazars LLP provides insight and specialized experience in accounting, tax and advisory services. Since 1921, the firm's professionals have leveraged technical expertise and industry familiarity to create customized solutions to overcome client challenges. As the independent U.S. member firm of Mazars Group, Weiser-Mazars has a global reach of nearly 14,000 professionals in more than 70 countries. Locally and internationally, the firm builds lasting relationships with its clients by addressing their particular needs, creating value and optimizing their organizational performance.