

## B. Cobene Watkins

### Member

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Ben joined Watkins Uiberall, PLLC in 1988. As the member in charge of the Healthcare Group and Plan Administration and Consulting, LLC (PAC), he oversees all of the firm's healthcare and pension-related engagements. Ben concentrates his practice on healthcare assurance and accounting services, and he works with both for-profit and not-for-profit organizations.

Ben holds expert knowledge in all areas of accounting and has honed specific skills related to Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs), governmental and not-for-profit audits, Medicare and Medicaid cost reporting and Comprehensive Medical Practice Analysis. He demonstrated his expert ability by clearing up \$1,000,000 in potential payback to a federal grant program for a local FQHC. Ben also helped a medical practice increase their total collected revenue by 25% through a pricing and chart audit review.

Prior to joining Watkins Uiberall, Ben served in accounting roles within the private sector. He first began developing his accounting skills in the meat processing industry as a cost accountant. Ben worked in the industry for 10 years and eventually joined the management team of his organization, earning the title of corporate controller.

Ben is recognized locally and nationally as a seasoned practitioner of healthcare accounting and consulting. He leads the Healthcare Group's execution of the annual "Medical Office Personnel Salary & Benefits Survey" and benchmark analysis in the Memphis area. Ben has been invited to present the results and his expert analysis of the survey to the Mid-South MGMA.

Ben grew up on a farm in Southeast Missouri and now resides in Germantown, Tennessee with his wife. Together they are the proud parents of three daughters. In his time away from the office, Ben enjoys outdoor activities including fishing, bird hunting and flying.



#### Professional Designations and Licenses

- Certified Public Accountant (CPA) – Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee
- Certified Medical Practice Analyst (CMPA)

#### Memberships

- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants (AICPA)
- Tennessee Society of CPAs (TSCPA)
- BKR International
  - Healthcare Consulting Committee
- Healthcare Financial Management Association (HFMA)
- Mid-South Medical Group Management Association (MS-MGMA)
- Comprehensive Medical Practice Analysis
- Tennessee Association of the Homes and Services for the Aging (TNAHSA)
- Tennessee Hospital Association (THA)
- Affiliated Healthcare Advisors (AHA)
- Fogelman College of Business & Economics (FCBE) Alumni Chapter, University of Memphis
  - Former member, Board of Directors
- National Executive Board of Directors, University of Memphis Alumni Association (2011-2012)

#### Education

- Memphis State University
  - Bachelor of Business Administration (1978)

#### Ben's Personal Mission Statement

*"I grew up on a farm and played a lot of sports as a kid. As a result, I learned at an early age that a good work ethic is the foundation for excellence. The ability to effectively work as a team and the attitude to depend on each other – this is what makes an exceptional advisor."*