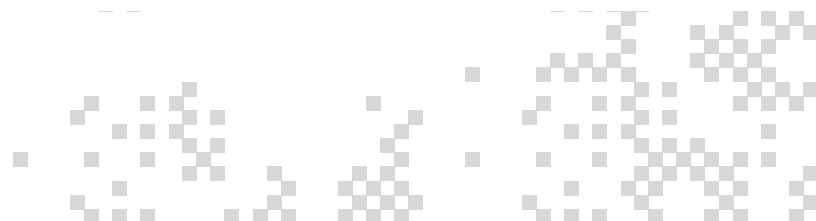




# Employee Benefit Plan Audits





# Strong audits mean vital protection

Your employees deserve benefit plan protection, and you also have a fiduciary duty to ensure it's audited against all applicable standards. When the audit process is done right, everybody wins.

Every benefit plan audit comes with its own unique complexities. This is why we have a dedicated year-round employee benefit plan audit team — available any day, any time and not just during peak season. Learn more about our approach in the following pages.



# Overview

We audit benefit plans of all sizes and across a range of industries. Our team brings experience with plans that include highly complex investments and plan provisions, and with differing service providers. We're happy to connect you with client references whose plans closely resemble yours.

## **We audit over 800 plans of all types including:**

- 401(k) & 403(b)
- ESOP
- Unions
- Apprentice
- Defined benefit
- Welfare plans including MEWAs
- Multi-employer plans
- Payroll compliance audits
- Multiple employer plans (including PEO and PEP)
- Governmental plans (Federal, State and Local)
- Church plans

## **We also offer:**

- Preparation of plan financial statements, footnotes and required supplemental schedules, including those with 11-K filing requirements.
- A SOC team with experience in the retirement plan industry to supplement internal control review and evaluation of best practices, including IT general controls.
- A team of industry experts specializing in plan design, plan compliance assistance and 5500 preparatory services with over 250 retirement plans and 300 welfare plans in our client base.
- Preparation of 990s and 1041 for trusts.



## All levels

are dedicated, not just senior professionals



## Flexibility

to perform audits remotely or on-site



## Jan/Feb timeframe

dedicated to audit planning and fieldwork



# Benefits of our year-round dedicated team

## Flexibility in audit timing

- All levels are dedicated, not just senior professionals
- Deep bench of expertise
- Time dedicated for planning and performing work in January/February timeframe
- We schedule audits to meet your desired deadlines by developing a service timeline

## Compliance issues knowledge

- We participate in industry conferences, committees and speaking engagements to stay informed of emerging issues and regulatory updates
- We assist with correction strategies for compliance issues

## Engagement efficiencies

### **We reduce plan sponsor time commitments through:**

- Service provider relationships with various payroll and record-keeping platforms, enabling audit request automation and routine audit methodology refinement
- Specialized SOC knowledge for proper SOC report utilization
- Service timeline creation for expectations and goals alignment, including team meetings, for an organized and integrated audit
- Flexibility to perform audits remotely or on-site
- Early communication of information types to be requested
- Focused and integrated review by proper reviewers or subject matter experts without compromising the delivery timeline
- Leveraging standardized payroll data from select systems to reduce manual requests and follow-ups

## Client satisfaction

- Annual post-engagement survey to understand your feedback and help us continue to improve our process



# Our client– centric approach

Our client-centric audit approach is centered on improving plan controls, ensuring compliance requirements and achieving overall plan goals. We also provide ongoing guidance and education through annual webinars, quarterly newsletters and timely e-Alerts.

"Collaborative, accessible and responsive – focused on compliance and improvement in all aspects of auditing the plan; aligned with us when appropriate to find solutions."

"Several years ago, I switched to Sikich and I have not been disappointed. I am so pleased with the professionalism and knowledge base of the auditors at Sikich that I no longer dread my annual benefit audit."

"Sikich is a great resource for our company. Not only do they guide us through our annual audit each year, but along the way they provide clear, concise answers to our compliance questions. We always get a response quickly that helps us to make the best decision for our plan."



# Services

## to support our Employee Benefit Plan Audit Team

Beyond providing traditional auditing services, Sikich offers consulting, technology and compliance services to enhance the value of our employee benefit plan audit practice.

We offer:

- Preparation of plan financial statements, footnotes and required supplemental schedules, including those with 11-K filing requirements.
- A team of industry experts specializing in plan design, plan compliance assistance and 5500 preparatory services with over 250 retirement plans and 300 welfare plans in our client base.
- A SOC team with experience in the retirement plan industry to supplement internal control review and evaluation of best practices, including IT general controls.



# 550

Form 5500  
filings annually



# Suralink workflow platform

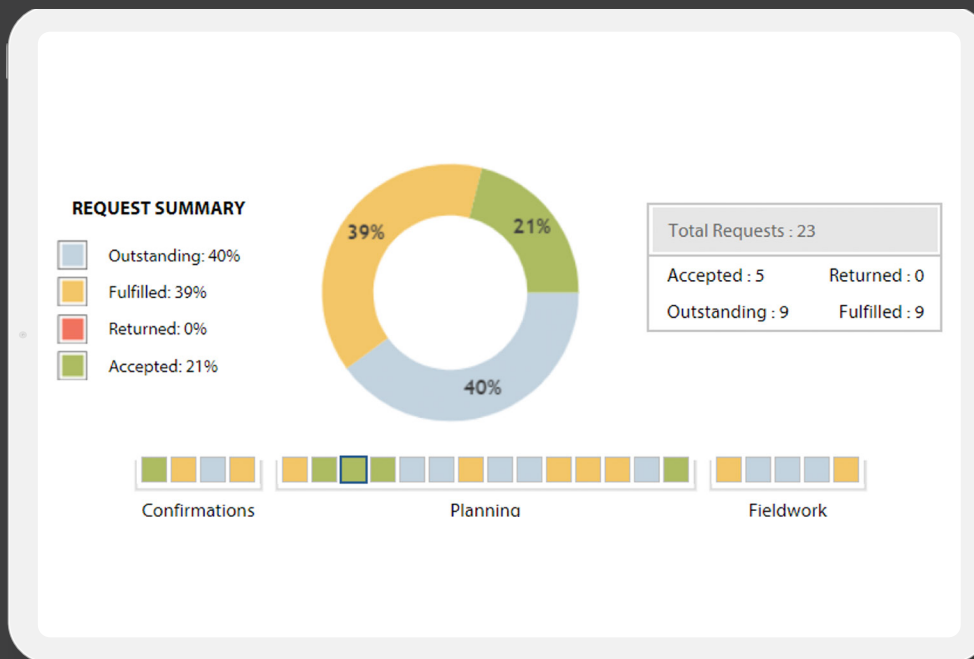
- Seamlessly coordinates data gathering process
- Enables custom requests with easy drag and drop capabilities
- Delivers real time view of audit progress and milestones status to efficiently manage plan sponsor requests
- Allows individual request assignments and provides adequate lead time for each division to ensure data is in correct format
- Eliminates email traffic with chat feature that automates and streamlines the audit request communication
- Contains restriction feature for sensitive and confidential information

# Technology-enabled Project management services

Using impactful interface-type technology that is both efficient and easy-to-use ensures that plan sponsors and Sikich are always on the same page throughout the audit process. Through the Suralink workflow platform, you will be able to collaborate directly with Sikich to send and receive documents and data securely.



## TAKE A PEEK INTO THE PORTAL'S INTERFACE



# Our dedicated team

To learn more about how you can maximize your benefit plan audit process with Sikich, contact one of our national employee benefit plan leaders.



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## Additional services

### Risk management

- Cybersecurity
- Forensic and Valuation
- Governance, Risk and Compliance
- Transaction Advisory (Deals)

### Business process solutions

- Finance and Accounting Services
- IT and Security Managed Services
- Marketing and Communications

### Enterprise application consulting

- Data and AI
- ERP, CRM, HCM Products and Services
- Regulatory, Quality and Compliance

### Compliance services

- Audit and Assurance
- IT Controls
- Tax Services



## Industries served

FINANCIAL SERVICES

GOVERNMENT

LIFE SCIENCES & HEALTHCARE

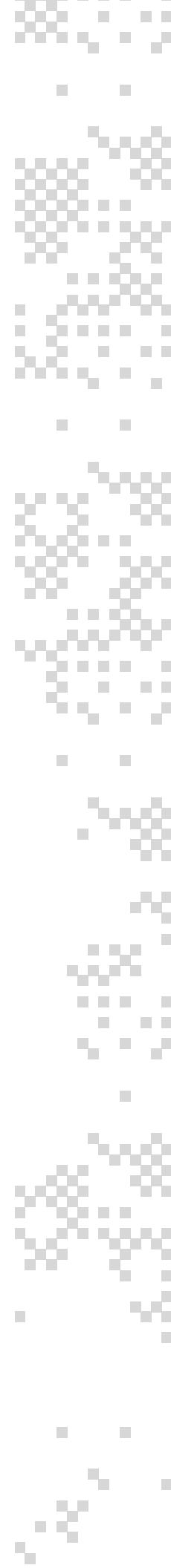
MANUFACTURING & DISTRIBUTION

NONPROFIT AND EDUCATION

PRIVATE EQUITY

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

WHOLESALE & SUPPLY CHAIN





Sikich offers the public and private sectors a diverse platform of professional services across consulting, technology and compliance. Highly specialized and hands -on teams deliver integrated solutions rooted in deep industry experience. Our approach is strategically and thoughtfully designed to help our clients, teams and communities accelerate success. Sikich has approximately 2,500 team members and operates across North America, EMEA and APAC.



Sikich practices in an alternative practice structure in accordance with the AICPA Professional Code of Conduct and applicable law, regulations, and professional standards. Sikich CPA LLC is a licensed CPA firm that provides audit and attest services to its clients, and Sikich LLC and its subsidiaries provide tax and business advisory services to its clients. Sikich CPA LLC has a contractual arrangement with Sikich LLC under which Sikich LLC supports Sikich CPA LLC's performance of its professional services. Sikich LLC and its subsidiaries are not licensed CPA firms.

"Sikich" is the brand name under which Sikich CPA LLC and Sikich LLC provide professional services. The entities under the Sikich brand are independently owned and are not liable for the services provided by any other entity providing services under the Sikich brand. The use of the terms "our company", "we" and "us" and other similar terms denote the alternative practice structure of Sikich CPA LLC and Sikich LLC.

Securities offered through Sikich Corporate Finance LLC, member FINRA/SIPC. Investment advisory services offered through Sikich Financial, an SEC Registered Investment Advisor.