

CASE STUDY

GOVERNANCE, RISK AND COMPLIANCE IN A DIOCESAN ENVIRONMENT

Challenge: Strengthening Oversight Across 50+ Parishes

A major Diocese relied on an in-house internal audit function to monitor more than 50 parishes. Seeking a more independent and objective perspective, the Diocese decided to transition away from its existing model. Its first external provider, however, lacked the scale and expertise required to effectively manage and expand the internal audit program. As a result, the Diocese needed a partner that could bring fresh insight to its audit process, deliver timely and thorough work, and minimize the administrative burden on both the Diocese and its parishes.



Our Approach: A Targeted, Risk-Based Audit Program

We recognize that the Diocese and its parishes carry a unique responsibility as stewards of their parishioners' free-will offerings and have an obligation to uphold the highest standards of trust and accountability. In close coordination with the CFO and his team, we assess the risks facing the Diocese and its parishes to help safeguard these resources.

Leveraging deep expertise in internal audit, risk, and controls, we conduct thorough reviews of individual parishes, including audit inquiries, trend analyses, and detailed testing over key areas of parish financial operations. Our work identifies areas of concern and provides actionable recommendations to strengthen financial and operational governance, enhance oversight, and improve the overall control environment.

Results: Strengthened Stewardship Through Improved Governance

-  Cash Governance
-  Faster Reporting Cycle
-  Modernized Diocesan Financial Procedures
-  Coverage of Parishes
-  Financial Statement Quality

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Schneider Downs delivered a scalable, risk-based internal audit program that strengthened financial stewardship, enhanced governance, and reduced the administrative burden on the Diocese and its parishes.
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Meet the Team



James B. Yard, CPA, CIA
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Risk Advisory Services



Erin M. Puko-Wilking, CPA, CIA
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Conor P. Manning, CIA
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About Schneider Downs Risk Advisory

The Schneider Downs Risk Advisory team consists of experts in a wide range of industries who are committed to collaborating with your organization to identify and effectively mitigate risks. We help organizations to build depth in critical areas of risk management, including technology, operational, compliance and financial risks and application of compliance frameworks. Our team includes subject-matter expertise in internal audit, risk, information technology, compliance, analytics, transformation and cybersecurity, and has the ability to supplement existing internal audit, risk, consulting, IT teams or act as a full-service solution provider.

About Schneider Downs

Schneider Downs is a Top 60 independent Certified Public Accounting (CPA) firm providing accounting, tax, audit and consulting services to public and private companies, not-for-profit organizations and global companies. We also offer risk advisory, transaction advisory, digital consulting, wealth management, retirement plan solutions and investment banking services. Schneider Downs serves individuals and companies in Pennsylvania (PA), Ohio (OH), West Virginia (WV), New York (NY), Maryland (MD), metropolitan Washington (DC) and additional states in the United States with offices in Pittsburgh, PA, Columbus, OH, and McLean, VA.



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