



# Famous Person PROfiles

North America

Joe Kenyon

## Famous Person of the Month

**WHO:** Joe Kenyon, CPA, CFE and ABV, managing shareholder of Minneapolis CPA and consulting firm Schechter Dokken Kanter (SDK). Joe founded the forensic accounting and valuation practice at SDK, which now serves regional and national clients, including those with multimillion dollar damage issues. Joe has been at SDK since it formed in 1990 and became a partner in 1992. He had been with SDK's predecessor firm since 1974.



**LEADERSHIP IN PKF NA:** Past chair of PKF NA's Legal Services Committee.

**WHAT MAKES JOE FAMOUS:** Joe enjoys providing litigation support services to legal counsel and their clients. These services include developing economic damage studies or rebutting them, forensic accounting, fraud investigations, business valuations, expert testimony, assistance with discovery and analyses of documents and financial data.

"I enjoy the challenge of being on the stand, doing a persuasive presentation to the jury and handling the cross examination," he notes, adding that he likes the intellectual stimulation of the work and its emphasis on problem solving.

**PROFESSIONAL PARTICIPATION:** Joe has served a number of professional groups with distinction. He is past president of the Minnesota Society of Certified Public Accountants, past member of the governing council of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, past president of the North Central Chapter of the Institute of Business Appraisers and past chair of the Alternative Dispute Resolution Section of the Minnesota State Bar Association.

He is a member of the Institute of Management Accountants, National Association of Forensic Economists, American Bankruptcy Institute, Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Advisors, and Licensing Executives Society. He also serves as a panel member of the American Arbitration Association.

Joe also is a frequent presenter at various group meetings. Recent talks include: "A Volatile Mix: Fraud and the Current Economy" at the Turnaround Management Association (TMA) Upper Midwest Chapter Educational Event; and "Detecting and Preventing Fraud In Challenging Times" (discussion panel member) at the TMA Mid-America Regional Conference.

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT:** Joe's recent community involvement includes assisting military personnel returning from Iraq. "It really puts things into perspective with your own day-to-day stresses," he says. "You're unlikely to lose your life or a limb in your day-to-day work." He has previously served on the board of an organization that provides housing assistance and worked with an accounting aid group.

**WORDS OF WISDOM:** "My big thing is you have to find your passion. Forensic accounting turned into my passion. I also have a passion for this firm and for the work I do. If you have a passion for the work, the rest — the money and the prestige — will come."

**ON THE PERSONAL SIDE:** Joe has two daughters, one grandson and another grandchild on the way. Before his first grandchild was born, he wasn't sure he wanted to be called "grandpa." That changed quickly. "After holding my grandson, call me whatever you want," he says, laughing.