

Avant® Advisory Group Capabilities



- M&A / Transaction Advisory / Quality of Earnings
- Financial Restructuring & Operational Turnarounds
- CFO Services & C-Suite Interim Management
- Financial Forensics, Fraud & Corporate Investigations
- Exit, Strategic & Succession Planning

Avant-Edge™ - When Quality Information, Experience and Technical Expertise are Integral Parts of the Solution



Who We Are

Avant® Advisory Group is an operationally focused financial, **M&A advisory, and management consulting firm**. We help clients preserve and create enterprise value through practical, execution-driven solutions.

Our Avant-Edge™ approach combines technical expertise with hands-on execution to identify opportunities and improve cash flow, profitability, and overall business performance.

Our team includes former CEOs, CROs, CFOs, and COOs, along with senior professionals from Big Four firms. We integrate directly with management teams to address complex financial and operational challenges.

For middle-market companies, we provide interim and fractional C-suite leadership — including CFO and CRO roles — offering experienced support aligned with business needs.



We Are:

Experienced, Credentialed & Trustworthy

Avant® is comprised of senior strategic, operational, and financial professionals with deep experience across **M&A advisory, consulting, and corporate leadership roles.**

Our team brings practical expertise developed at leading CPA firms and global organizations, enabling effective execution in complex environments.

We maintain strong technical capability through recognized professional credentials, including CPA, CFE, CGMA, CM&AA, CEPA, CIRA, CTP, and Six Sigma Black Belt.

This combination of experience and technical depth allows us to deliver high-quality results with speed, precision, and minimal ramp-up time.

M&A Transaction Advisory & Quality of Earnings



- M&A Transaction Advisory
- Buy-Side & Sell-Side
- Quality of Earnings / Financial Due Diligence
- Risk Assessment
- Capital Sourcing & Refinancing
- Valuation
- Pre- and Post-Transaction Integration Support

Avant® Advisory provides M&A transaction advisory services, including Quality of Earnings / financial due diligence, supporting acquisitions, divestitures, capital raises, and refinancings.

We support clients across the transaction lifecycle — preparing businesses for market, improving operational readiness, and enhancing the reliability of financial information.

Our approach delivers independent, objective insights that identify key value drivers, risks, and transaction considerations — enabling informed decision-making.

Through Quality of Earnings engagements, we assess the sustainability of earnings and cash flow, supporting valuation, deal execution, and post-transaction integration.

We have worked with leading private equity firms, including:

- **Falcon Investments**
- **Balmoral Advisors**
- **Industrial Growth Partners**
- **Caymus Capital**

- **Fulcrum Capital**
- **Nogales Investors**
- **Levine Leichtman Capital Partners**
- **Five Crown Capital**
- **TA Associates**

as well as financing sources such as:

- **Bank of America**
- **GE Capital**
- **Wells Capital Finance**
- **PNC**
- **Prudential Capital**
- **CIT Commercial Finance**
- **Z Capital**
- **Victory Park Capital**

Quality of Earnings Specialist Team

Jim Davidson, CPA, CFF, CFE, CGMA, FCPA, CM&AA, CM&AP, CEPA, CIRA, CTP, CD, CBA is president and founder of Avant[®] and specializes in mergers and acquisitions, distressed and special situations, forensic investigations, and interim C-suite leadership (CEO, CRO, CFO). Brings extensive experience in M&A transaction advisory, restructuring, and financial forensics.

➤ See Jim's bio at <https://www.avantadvisory.com/meet-our-team/james-f-davidson/>.

John Oliver, CPA, is a senior finance and operations executive with over 30 years of experience supporting mergers and acquisitions, due diligence, carve-outs, integrations, and CFO-led strategic initiatives. His background across e-commerce, retail, consumer products, manufacturing, and distribution adds practical operating insight to transaction and diligence engagements.

➤ See John's bio at <https://avantadvisory.com/meet-our-team/john-oliver/>.

Jim Hughes, CPA, CFE, is a senior financial advisor with 30 years of experience in completing hundreds of Quality of Earnings, M&A diligence, sell-side support, and financial forensics. He has advised on multiple transactions involving private equity firms and middle-market businesses, with industry experience spanning telecommunications, media, and technology, real estate, consumer products, manufacturing, distribution.

➤ See Jim's bio at <https://avantadvisory.com/meet-our-team/james-hughes/>

Please refer to "Our Team" section of this slide deck and our website <https://avantadvisory.com/meet-our-team/> for other Avant team members.

Avant® Insights: Quality of Earnings & M&A



HOW DO INDUSTRY NORMS INFLUENCE ACCEPTABLE ADD-BACKS?

Understanding acceptable add-backs requires more than identifying one-time expenses — it demands a clear understanding of industry norms and recurring business realities.

[View Insights](#)



WHAT ADVANTAGES DOES AN INVESTOR RECEIVE WITH A Q OF E REVIEW?

A disciplined Q of E creates transparency, strengthens deal confidence, and supports smoother negotiations and integration planning. When investors understand the sustainability of earnings, they can structure transactions more effectively and protect value throughout the deal lifecycle.

[View Insights](#)



SHOULD WE NEGOTIATE SPECIFIC ADD-BACKS IN THE LOI (LETTER OF INTENT)?

Specifying a clear framework for acceptable add-backs whether as stated in the LOI or agreed via the Q of E reduces ambiguity and potential disputes. This ensures the buyer and seller align in the treatment of identified adjustments and their impact on valuation prior to executing the transaction.

[View Insights](#)

[VIEW MORE INSIGHTS & RESOURCES HERE](#)

Core Services



M&A Transaction Advisory & Quality of Earnings

- Sell-Side & Buy-Side M&A Advisory
- Valuation & Purchase Price Analytics
- Deal Structuring & Transaction Advisory
- Sourcing & Refinancing (as deal-enabling)
- Quality of Earnings (Q of E) / Financial Due Diligence
- Financial Reporting & Deal Readiness(SEC / Internal Controls)
- Corporate Governance (Pre- and Post-Transaction)
- Litigation Support & Expert Witness
- Fraud, Forensics & Investigations



Special Situations & Crisis Management

- Financial / Debt Restructuring
- Cash Flow / Working Capital Management
- Operational Turnarounds & Restructuring
- Lender Communications & Negotiations
- Chief Restructuring Officer
- Chapter 11 Case Management
- Interim Management
- Preference Analysis
- Wind-downs & Liquidations
- Examiner / Monitor
- Receivership
- Bankruptcy & Special Situations



Profitability & Performance Improvement

- Performance Improvement – Tying improvement initiatives to profit and working capital management
- Supply Chain Management
- Lean and Process Improvement
- CFO Support Services
- Business / Operational Assessments
- Revenue & Gross Profit Growth
- Post-Acquisition Integration
- Information Technology
- Project Management
- C-Suite Management Support



- Interim CFO Capabilities
- Financial Reporting
- Controllershship Services
- SEC Compliance
- Internal Audit Support

Inadequate financial reporting can quickly impact your ability to meet lender requirements, maintain visibility into performance, and make informed decisions.

Avant[®] provides interim and fractional CFO, controllership, and financial reporting support to help you establish accurate, timely, and reliable financial information. We strengthen reporting processes, improve visibility into performance, and enhance credibility with lenders and financial sponsors.

We help you navigate increasing reporting and compliance demands — ensuring you meet stakeholder expectations without losing focus on day-to-day operations such as cash management, FP&A, and regulatory requirements.

Our team integrates quickly with your organization to assess gaps, implement controls, and stabilize financial reporting. We bring a practical, execution-focused approach to resolving issues and improving overall financial management.

We have supported private equity sponsors, lenders, and middle-market companies by delivering interim CFO leadership, strengthening internal controls, and providing transaction, restructuring, and investigative support — helping you maintain control and drive better financial outcomes.

Distressed & Special Situations



RELIABILITY

Avant[®] provides large-firm capability with the speed, flexibility, and efficiency of a boutique advisory practice. We support companies, lenders, investors, and legal advisors in navigating financial distress, operational underperformance, and complex restructuring situations.

We help you assess viability, stabilize operations, and execute practical turnaround and restructuring strategies that protect and preserve enterprise value.

Our services include:

- **Chief Restructuring Officer / Advisory Services**
- **Financial Advisory, including capital sourcing, debt & creditor restructuring & pre-diligence preparation**
- **Operational Turnarounds**
- **Performance & Profitability Improvement**
- **CFO Services focused on improved quality of reporting**
- **Interim Management (CRO, CEO, COO, CFO & CIO)**
- **Distressed Mergers, Acquisitions & Divestitures (§ 363, UCC-9, ABC)**
- **Business Assessments on behalf of lenders / investors**

- **Corporate Turnarounds & Restructuring**
- **Crisis Management**
- **Financial Restructuring Services**
- **Chief Restructuring Officer/Advisor**
- **Reorganization thru Chapter 11 Proceeding**

- **Pre- and Post-Chapter 11 Preparation and Bankruptcy Case Management**
- **Expert Witness in Chapter 11 Proceedings**
- **Forensic, Fraud & Corporate Investigations**
- **Receivership Services**

Our team brings deep experience in both financial and operational restructuring, combining executive leadership backgrounds with technical expertise in turnaround and insolvency advisory.

We advise management teams, boards, lenders, legal counsel, and investors on restructuring strategy, operational improvements, and value recovery options.

In complex or distressed environments, we focus on what matters most: stabilizing cash flow, reducing inefficiencies, improving decision-making, and restoring business performance.

Financial Forensics, Fraud & Corporate Investigations



KNOWLEDGE

- Forensic Accounting
- Fraud & Corporate Investigations
- Working Capital Disputes
- Litigation Support
- Expert Witness – Testifying & Consulting

Financial discrepancies can arise from reporting errors, aggressive accounting practices, or intentional misstatements. When results do not align with underlying financial performance, timely and objective analysis is critical.

Avant[®] provides forensic accounting, fraud investigation, and dispute support services to help you identify issues, correct financial reporting, and restore accuracy to financial results.

We support boards, lenders, investors, legal counsel, and business owners in understanding what occurred, quantifying impact, and determining appropriate corrective or recovery actions.

Our team includes former Big Four professionals with deep experience in forensic accounting, financial investigations, and dispute advisory

engagements across a wide range of industries and stakeholders.

We apply technical rigor and practical insight to support efficient investigations, strengthen dispute resolution strategies, and provide clarity in complex financial situations.

When necessary, we also support litigation-related matters by providing forensic analysis, asset tracing, and financial evidence to assist in recovery efforts.

Exit, Strategic & Succession Planning



CREDIBILITY

Exit planning is an ongoing strategic discipline focused on building a business that is transferable, resilient, and positioned to maximize value at any stage of ownership.

As Certified Exit Planning Advisors, Avant[®] Advisory integrates exit readiness into core business strategy — aligning personal, financial, and operational objectives while building a clear path toward value optimization and successful transition.

How We Help Build Exit-Ready Value

- We help identify and strengthen key value drivers to improve long-term valuation and performance.
- **Reduce Owner Dependence**
We help build leadership depth, systems, and operational structure to increase scalability and buyer readiness.
- **Align Strategic Objectives**
We help align personal, financial, and business goals to support informed decisions on timing and exit structure.
- **Close Value Gaps**
We help identify gaps in profitability, valuation, and wealth creation—and implement targeted improvements.

- Owner Exit and Strategic Planning
- Business Valuation
- Exit Readiness Assessment
- Business, Personal, and Financial Goal Alignment
- Enterprise Value Enhancement Planning
- Exit Options Analysis

- **Strengthen Business Fundamentals**

We enhance key drivers of valuation, including leadership capability, customer relationships, operational structure, and organizational resilience.

- **Develop a Structured Exit Roadmap**

We guide through a disciplined process from assessment to execution, with clear milestones and accountability.

- **Evaluate Exit Alternatives**

We help assess internal and external transition options, including succession, management buyouts, recapitalizations, ESOPs, and third-party sales.

- **Prepare for Planned and Unplanned Transitions**

We help reduce risk exposure by planning for both expected and unexpected ownership transitions.

We help build a business that is not only sale-ready — but highly attractive to strategic and institutional buyers.

Industry-Related Experience & Expertise



Technology

- SaaS/Software
- E-Commerce
- Biotechnology
- Clean Tech
- Microchip
- Medical Device
- Pharmaceutical
- Research & Development
- Space & Science
- Telecommunications
- Wireless



Manufacturing

- Agribusiness
- Aerospace & Defense
- Building Materials
- Consumer Products
- Chemicals
- Energy – Oil & Gas, Mining, Green
- Food Processing & Packaging
- Industrial & Assembly
- Equipment
- Semiconductor & Electronics



Industrial & Other Industries

- Engineering & Construction
- Contracting & Maintenance
- Consumer & Retail
- Transportation / Logistics
- Wholesale Distribution
- Professional, Financial & Insurance
- Real Estate & Construction
- Restaurants & Franchise Operations
- Healthcare
- Leisure, Hospitality & Entertainment

Avant® M&A-Related Presentations



M&A The Ultimate Guide

Mergers and acquisitions (M&A) refer to transactions where one company acquires all or part of another to support strategic goals such as growth, expansion, restructuring, or competitive repositioning. Each party enters the deal with its own objectives and expected value outcomes. Because the process is complex and high-risk, it often requires external support from legal, financial, and industry experts to manage execution, reduce risk, and improve the likelihood of success.

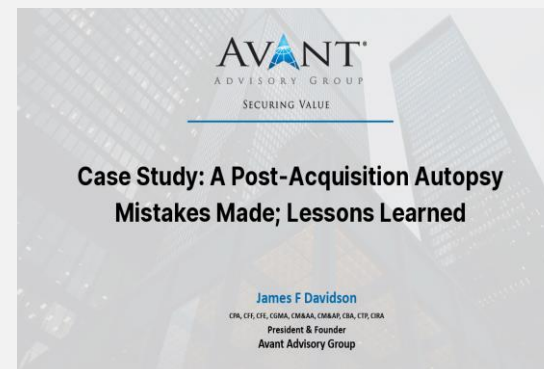
[Read more](#)



Lessons & Warnings from the Wreckage: What a Flawed Quality of Earnings ("Q of E") Can Teach Lenders & Investors

This document analyzes the risks of a defective Quality of Earnings (Q of E) report and how it can mislead investors through accounting errors, such as the improper capitalization of expenses and undisclosed contract obligations. Readers will learn to avoid emotional investment bias and the importance of questioning reports from large audit firms that may use inexperienced staff. The file emphasizes identifying red flags and fostering collaboration between advisors to ensure the true value of a transaction is secured.

[Read more](#)



Case Study: A Post-Acquisition Autopsy Mistakes Made; Lessons Learned

This case study analyzes an acquisition that failed due to a defective Quality of Earnings report, which masked critical accounting failures like the inappropriate capitalization of expenses and undisclosed debt. It provides essential tips for investors, such as avoiding emotional investment bias and verifying the work of outside experts rather than relying solely on firm reputation. Ultimately, the document teaches readers how to identify financial red flags and the importance of professional collaboration to secure the true value of a transaction.

[Read more](#)



M&A Questions & Discussion Topics

This document provides a set of strategic discussion questions designed by Avant® Advisory Group to guide M&A professionals through the complexities of acquisitions. It covers critical topics such as deal sourcing, due diligence, and post-merger integration, with a specific focus on identifying financial "red flags" and avoiding common transaction pitfalls. The file serves as a practical framework for investors and advisors to ensure value creation and mitigate risks during the deal-making process.

[Read more](#)

[VIEW MORE INSIGHTS & RESOURCES HERE](#)



TEAM WORK

Experienced, Credentialed & Trustworthy

Avant® Advisory Group is composed of former C-suite executives and senior professionals from leading accounting and consulting firms.

We support clients facing complex or time-sensitive strategic, financial, and operational challenges by providing experienced leadership and execution.

Our team integrates quickly with management, delivering objective assessments and practical solutions focused on results.

We operate with a senior-led model — providing direct access to experienced professionals without reliance on junior staffing — ensuring efficient execution and high-impact outcomes.

Our Team



James F. Davidson, CPA, CFF, CFE, CGMA, FCPA, CM&AA, CM&AP, CEPA, CIRA, CTP, CD, CBA
President & Founder

Jim Davidson is president and founder of Avant[®] Advisory Group, a preeminent, 30-year management consulting and operationally focused financial advisory firm that specializes in *mergers & acquisitions (M&A)*; distressed - operational turnarounds & financial restructurings; forensic, fraud, & corporate investigations; dispute resolution-consulting and testifying expert witness; CRO, CFO, C-Suite, & corporate governance advisory.

Jim and Avant[®] Advisory Group primarily serve middle-market companies with revenues ranging from \$25 million to multi-billion-dollar sales, private equity firms, family offices and their portfolio companies, banks, alternative lenders, other capital providers, attorneys, and law firms. **He specializes in the following areas:**

Mergers & Acquisitions

- M&A transaction advisory (buy-side & sell-side)
- Sell-side readiness/preparation
- Financial diligence / Quality of Earnings assessments (buy-side & sell-side)
- Exit / Ownership planning
- Valuations
- Operational due diligence
- Distressed company acquisitions
- Performance, profitability & valuation improvement
- Post-merger integration

Distressed & Special Situations

- Insolvency, including bankruptcy
- Operational turnarounds
- Financial restructurings
- Performance & profitability improvement
- Financial Advisor
- Chief Restructuring Officer

Forensic, Fraud, & Corporate Investigations

- Financial forensics
- Fraud & corporate investigations
- Dispute resolution – Consulting & testifying expert witness

CEO, CRO, CFO, C-Suite Interim Management

- C-Suite interim management
- CFO services
- Strategic planning
- Corporate governance
- Performance, profitability & valuation improvement
- Board advisory

Mergers & Acquisitions

Distressed & Special Situations

Forensic, Fraud, & Corporate Investigations

Financial Restructuring

CEO, CRO, CFO, C-Suite Interim Management

Industry Expertise – Saas, Technology, E-Commerce

Operational Turnarounds

Our Team



Mergers & Acquisitions

Distressed & Special Situations

Forensic, Fraud, & Corporate Investigations

Financial Restructuring

CEO, CRO, CFO, C-Suite Interim Management

Industry Expertise – Saas, Technology, E-Commerce

Operational Turnarounds

James F. Davidson, CPA, CFF, CFE, CGMA, FCPA, CM&AA, CM&AP, CEPA, CIRA, CTP, CD, CBA

President & Founder

Professional Associations & Board Memberships

- Alliance of Merger & Acquisition Advisors
- M&A Source
- Orange County Transactional Network
- Center for Strategic Business Integrity
- Association for Corporate Growth
- Opus (M&A) Connect
- National Association of Certified Valuation Analysts
- Association of Insolvency and Restructuring Advisors
- American Bankruptcy Institute
- California Bankruptcy Forum
- International Insolvency Institute
- Turnaround Management Association
- California Receivers Forum
- National Association of Corporate Directors
- Association of Certified Fraud Examiners
- American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
- California Society of Certified Public Accountants
- Institute of Management Consultants
- Association of Certified Fraud Specialists
- Forensic CPA Society
- Forensic Expert Witness Association
- Private Directors Association
- American Institute of Certified Board Advisors
- Financial Executives International Mid-Sized Public Division Committee Member
- Financial Executives International Los Angeles and Orange County Chapters
- Boards of Directors of Reborn Home Solutions/Reborn Cabinets, Inc; Galaxy Venture Capital; and Christ Real Estate Investments.

Industry Expertise

- **Engineering & construction**
- Consumer products & services
- Retail & wholesale distribution
- E-commerce
- Food processing & packaging
- Agribusiness
- Restaurants
- Franchising
- Business & professional services
- Real estate
- Contracting
- Healthcare/Pharmaceuticals/Nutraceuticals
- Industrial products manufacturing & assembly
- Logistics – 3 PL & 4 PL
- Trucking & transportation
- Route-based businesses
- Waste management & disposal
- Aerospace & defense
- Energy – oil & gas, oil shale, ethanol, mining
- Chemicals and fertilizers
- Subprime lending
- Auto dealerships, service & repair shops
- Government & not-for-profit
- Education – colleges & universities
- Telecom, media, & technology



Mergers & Acquisitions

Distressed & Special Situations

Forensic, Fraud, & Corporate
Investigations

Financial Restructuring

CEO, CRO, CFO, C-Suite Interim
Management

James F. Davidson, CPA, CFF, CFE, CGMA, FCPA, CM&AA, CM&AP, CEPA, CIRA, CTP, CD, CBA
President & Founder

Publications & Recognitions

- 2026 LA Times Studios, "Banking & Finance Visionaries"
- 2025 ABF Journal, "Power Players in Revitalizers: Turnaround Advisors"
- 2025 LA Times, "Banking & Finance Visionaries"
- 2025 IR Global, "IR Global Has Designated James F Davidson of Avant Advisory Group as Exclusive Turnaround Professional in USA California"
- 2025 ABF Journal, "Legends & Leaders"
- 2024 LA Times, "Banking and Finance: Trends, Updates and Visionaries"
- 2024 The Enterprise World, "The Most Dynamic Business Executives to Watch In 2024"
- 2023 Financial Services Review, "Top Corporate Advisory Services Provider – Corporate Advisory Edition"
- 2023 LA Times, "Banking and Finance: Trends, Updates and Visionaries"
- 2022 Los Angeles Times, "Bankruptcy & Restructuring Roundtable"
- 2022 Los Angeles Business Journal, "Leaders of Influence: Private Equity, Investors & Advisors"
- 2022 Los Angeles Times, "Orange County Banking and Finance: Trends, Updates and Visionaries"
- 2021 Los Angeles Business Journal, "Leaders of Influence: Private Equity Investors & Advisors"
- 2021 Los Angeles Times, "Banking and Finance: Trends, Updates and Visionaries"
- 2020 Los Angeles Business Journal, "Leaders of Influence: Private Equity Investors & Advisors"
- 2020 California Business Journal, "Pivoting During COVID-19 Avant Advisory Group helps companies access financing through both the Paycheck Protection Program and the Economic Injury Disaster Loan Program."
- 2019 Corporate Live Wire, "Mergers & Acquisitions Roundtable"
- 2017 Corporate Live Wire, "Bankruptcy & Restructuring Roundtable"
- 2017 Linked-in Blog, "Three Ways to Avoid 'Messy' Merger & Acquisition Transactions"
- 2017 The Virtual Round Table, "Mergers & Acquisitions"
- 2011 CFO Magazine, "Where There's Smoke, There's Fraud"

Our Team



Mergers & Acquisitions

Distressed & Special Situations

Forensic, Fraud, & Corporate
Investigations

Financial Restructuring

CEO, CRO, CFO, C-Suite Interim
Management

James F. Davidson, CM&AA, CM&AP, CEPA, CIRA, CTP, CPA, CFF, CFE, CGMA, FCPA, CD, CBA
President & Founder

Jim and Avant[®] Advisory have been engaged by both counsel and buyers/investors to investigate and opine on numerous forensic and fraud examinations, including post-acquisition, conflicts of interest, breach of fiduciary duty issues, and other disputes. He and Avant[®] provide **M&A transaction advisory** and have performed hundreds of **buy-side and sell-side diligence engagements that include financial / quality of earnings and operations** for companies ranging from distressed to multi-billion-dollar firms.

Jim has served in senior executive positions at both public and private companies ranging from entrepreneurial to multi-billion-dollar revenues. After 10 years of accounting, auditing, M&A transaction advisory, turnaround and restructuring consulting for Big Four CPA firm PricewaterhouseCoopers, Jim transitioned to private industry. He has served as a member of several boards of directors and in various financial and executive positions, including president and CEO, CRO, COO, CFO, secretary-treasurer, chief accounting officer, and corporate controller.

He has served as member of both corporate and non-profit organization boards of directors. He was a co-founder and board member of the Southern California chapter of the Private Directors Association and is member of the board of directors of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners (Los Angeles). He served four years on the board, finance, and audit committees of the international not-for-profit organization, For the Children/Royal Family Kids.

He was a founding member of the board of directors of the Orange County Transaction Network and served on the Orange County and Los Angeles chapters of Opus Connect. He also served as finance, audit committee, and board member and advisor for several other large public, private, entrepreneurial, middle-market, for-profit and not-for-profit, organizations of various sizes, including with multibillion revenues.

Jim holds a master's degree in business with emphasis in finance & economics and bachelors' degrees in political science and psychology from the University of California, Irvine.

Our Team



Mergers & Acquisitions

Exit Planning

Business Valuation

Financial Restructuring

Retail / Wholesale

Rhett Kniep, M&AMI, CBI, CM&AP, CEPA

Managing Director & Partner – M&A & Exit Planning

Rhett Kniep is a credentialed Mergers & Acquisitions Master Intermediary (**M&AMI**), Certified Business Intermediary (**CBI**), Certified Mergers and Acquisitions Professional (**CM&AP**), and Certified Exit Planning Advisor (**CEPA**), and both a licensed real estate broker and **licensed general building contractor**. He is a professional advisor for the mergers and acquisitions of midmarket companies, creating exit plan strategies for owners. For over 20 years, Rhett has been an M&A advisor and exit planner for multiple businesses and investments in the lower middle-market with specializations in:

- **Contracting, engineering, and construction**
- **Real estate**
- **Automotive**
- **Trucking**
- **Manufacturing**

In addition to writing and publishing a real estate investing manual, and being featured in such publications as Forbes, Ezine, and Self-Growth, Rhett has presented and trained professionals at multiple business seminars and conferences on such topics as:

- **Business exit planning**
- **Negotiation**
- **Sales strategies**
- **Business valuation**

As a serial entrepreneur himself, Rhett has invested in and built several businesses in the following industries:

- **Orthotics manufacturing**
- **Feature film entertainment**
- **Real estate**
- **Marketing**
- **Engineering & construction**

He attended Lincoln Law School with a focus on contract law and has trained professionally via courses in real estate, investing, business management, and business marketing.

Rhett is a member of and/or obtained multiple professional certifications and licenses through:

- **M&A Source**
- **California Association of Business Brokers**
- **International Business Brokers' Association**
- **Contractors' State License Board**
- **California Department of Real Estate**

As managing director, **Rhett leads Avant's M&A.**

Our Team



John Oliver, CPA

CFO Services; Interim Management; M&A; E-Commerce; Retail, Wholesale Distribution

John has nearly 30 years of operations, management consulting, finance and accounting experience for public, private, and international companies ranging in size from entrepreneur to over \$1 billion in revenues.

John has served such major companies as Yeti Cooler (E-commerce & direct to consumer); Hasbro; Action Products International –Thomas Trains & Jay-Jay/Specialty Toys; Sky Caddie/Specialty Golf; Scuf Gaming (direct to consumer Gaming Controller company); United Parcel Service; Brinks Company; Pacer International; Best Buy; Amazon.

He also has extensive expertise that includes:

- **Financial / operations, M&A advisory, including due diligence**
- **ERP & internal controls implementation, multi-site manufacturing & supply chain optimization (i.e., procurement, inventory rationalization, BOM, & labor management)**
- **Carve-Outs / TSA management**
- **Technical accounting and reporting (GAAP/IFRS/ASC 606), cost & managerial accounting**
- **Interim and turnaround management.**
- **Business analytics, board package presentations, budgeting & forecasting.**

John is a CPA and was senior manager with Ernst & Young. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting from Connecticut State University, and Master's in Business Administration degree from the University of Southern California.

Mergers & Acquisitions – Due Diligence

Retail – Omni-channel & E-Commerce

Financial Restructuring

Operational Turnarounds

Carve-outs & Integrations

CFO Services/Interim Management



John Wirtz, CPA – CFO/CIO Services

John has over 30 years of finance, accounting, systems, operations, and management consulting experience. Serving in both financial and IT senior management roles for companies up to a billion-dollar revenues.

As CFO, Sr. Director of Systems & Analytics, corporate controller, costing specialist, and management consultant, he accomplished the following:

- **Mergers & Acquisitions, Chief Financial Officer, & Chief Technology Officer**
- **Completed several multi-million-dollar post M&A-transactions that included:**
 - Integrations of accounting, financial reporting, and payroll departments.
 - Staffing assessments and reorganization to improve throughput and accuracy.
 - ERP implementations.
 - Developed long-term forecasts, monthly department level budgets, and 13-month rolling cash flow projections.
- **Performed financial due diligence for several distributors and manufacturers with revenues exceeding \$100M.**
- **Cut monthly financial close time 80% (3 weeks to 3 days).**

John earned his CPA while with Ernst & Young and also served as senior consulting manager with Moss Adams. He holds specialty certifications in activity-based costing, project costing, inventory analysis, cost alignment, process controls, programming, database design & administration, application development, and systems implementation management. He has a Bachelor of Science in Biochemistry from the University of California, Los Angeles.

Mergers & Acquisitions

Operational & Information
Technology Improvements

Financial Restructuring

Financial Forensics & Fraud
Investigations

Our Team



James Hughes, CPA, CFE

Jim Hughes, CPA, CFE, has 30 years' financial advisory, financial forensics, and fraud investigation experience, largely serving companies ranging from \$50 million to \$1.5 billion. **In addition to performing numerous financial due diligence/quality of earnings,** financial restructuring / work out and turnaround situations, and corporate investigations, as a CPA and Certified Fraud Examiner, he is an expert in financial forensics and fraud examinations.

He has advised in multiple **M&A transactions** in such industries as home remodeling, real estate, **engineering & construction**, consumer products and services, aviation & aerospace, manufacturing, waste management, medical services, and distribution involving **large private equity firms**.

Jim's experience spans multiple other industries with specialized expertise in in the following industries:

- Telecommunications, media, & technology.
- Real Estate & financial services.
- Consumer products & services, including retail & franchising.
- Manufacturing & distribution.
- Construction, engineering, & contracting.

His experience includes auditing, financial forensics, fraud investigations, situation assessments and viability analysis, **merger & acquisition quality of earnings/accounting due diligence, and financial modeling** involving numerous companies of varying sizes.

In addition to being a **California licensed CPA, specializing in financial forensics**, and a Certified Fraud Examiner, he obtained his business degree in marketing from California Polytechnic State University.

Financial Forensics, Fraud &
Corporate Investigations

Financial Due Diligence / Q of E

CFO/controllership services

Buy-side & Sell-side diligence

Financial Restructuring &
Operational Turnarounds



Douglas A. Turski, CPA, MST
Complex Tax Analysis; M&A; Distressed

Mergers & Acquisitions

Financial Restructuring

Distressed – Financial Restructuring
and Operational Turnarounds

Doug Turski, CPA, MST, has over 35 years' experience spanning public accounting and auditing, corporate financial management, and consulting. He is an expert in the areas of corporate federal, multi-state, and international tax planning. His experience includes **Big 4 M&A tax due diligence and transaction analysis**; large company ASC 740 technical support; reviewing federal, international and state income tax returns; and public company tax director roles; controller, internal and external auditor.

Doug has deep technical tax expertise in due diligence, inbound/outbound international tax, transfer pricing, and consolidated returns. He has been involved in nearly 1,000 provisions including restatements, carve out calculations and related special tax projects, including the following specialty tax areas:

- **Tax due diligence**
- Tax restructuring, ownership change analysis under IRC Section 382
- **Pre-and post-acquisition tax structuring, including Section 338(h)(10) elections**
- **ASC 740 Purchase accounting**
- **Transaction cost analysis**
- Distressed, including bankruptcy
- FIN 48 Technical memos
- **Post-Transaction Integration**
- International tax planning
- ASC 740 tax provision preparation, review and audit support
- ASC 740 carve out calculations & restatements

Doug is a **California licensed CPA**, real estate broker, and an NFLPA-registered financial advisor. He holds a Master of Science in Tax (specialization in corporate and international) from Golden Gate University and is a graduate of the University of Southern California.



John J. DeMartino, CPA, CGMA, FINOP
Managing Director – East Coast

John J. DeMartino has over 40 years' total experience with Big Four CPA and consulting firm KPMG and both **multi-billion commercial bank and bulge-bracket investment banking firms**. He has held senior executive positions as Chairman of the Board, Executive Vice President, and Chief Financial Officer and filling senior roles in banking & treasury, securities (broker/dealer), private equity, sports marketing, investment management, not-for-profit and healthcare.

As a FINRA Certified Arbitrator, John is a neutral, independent individual who presides over and makes a final, binding decision in securities-related disputes between investors and brokerage firms through FINRA's arbitration forum.

John is the former Chairman of the Board of RAIN Total Care, a \$67 million NYC Agency serving over 1 million meals and providing senior assisted living & home attendant services.

In addition to his degree in accounting from Fordham University, John has earned the following:

- **Certified Public Accountant**
- **Chartered Global Management Accountant**
- **QuickBooks Certified Pro Advisor**
- **FINRA Series 27 Financial Operations Principal**
- **FINRA Certified Arbitrator**

Mergers & Acquisitions – Quality
of Earnings

CFO Services

Banking & Securities

Hospitality

Healthcare Specialties



Keith Bjelajac, CPA

Mergers & Acquisitions

Distressed – Operational Turnarounds &
Financial Restructuring

CPA – CFO Services

Keith has over 35 years of senior management experience, performing financial and operational management for high growth, financially distressed and multi-billion-dollar public companies. **He has been CFO for both large public and private companies with revenues ranging from \$100M to over \$15B.**

He has extensive experience in workout / restructuring and turnaround situations, repositioning, and profitability improvement across industries such as consumer goods and services – food processing, packaging, and distribution; restaurants and retail omni-channel and e-commerce; media and entertainment; manufacturing; **construction; critical power systems**; clean energy; **service and maintenance**; route-based industries; and real estate.

His career spans working in out-of-court as well as in-court financial restructurings involving bankruptcy / insolvency, including taking Sizzler through Chapter 11 and Power Plus through an Assignment for the Benefit of Creditors.

Keith is a Certified Public Accountant and earned his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with emphasis in Finance from the University of North Dakota.

Our Team



Joe Alouf, CPA

Distressed – Operational Turnarounds &
Financial Restructuring

CRO/CFO/COO C-Suite
Interim Management

Financial & Operational Diligence

Joe has over 30 years' experience in corporate finance, operations, investment management, and restructuring of public, private, and international companies ranging from entrepreneurial to billion-dollar + revenues across multiple industries, including agribusiness, wholesale distribution, retail – specialty, **omni-channel & e-commerce, technology (hardware, SaaS),** branded consumer products, and aerospace, among others.

Joe has served as an executive or in board of director roles at prestigious companies. He has also chaired notable Creditors' Committees. He has been involved in agribusinesses such as Diamond Star, Teleflora, Gallo, Korbell, and Sun Valley Farms.

Before transitioning to operational role, Joe developed specialized expertise over many years, working in the distressed loans department of a major bank, managing non-performing loans for a Texas commercial bank, and as Group Head of Prudential Capital's Restructuring Group, overseeing over \$3B of distressed debt and underperforming equity investments.

Joe is a veteran of the IDF (Airforce Intelligence) and currently serves on the Boards of the Catalight Foundation (Easter Seals) and the Behavioral Health Provider Network. He holds an active California CPA with a Master's in Business Administration Degree from New York University and a Bachelor Degree in Economics and Mathematics from Queens College.

Our Team



Mergers & Acquisitions

Exit & strategic planning

CFO & C-Suite Interim
Management

Internal controls design &
implementation

Financial modeling & forecasting

Bob Wang, CPA

Interim & Fractional CFO ; CPA; M&A & Exit Planning; Fraud & Forensic Accounting

Bob Wang, CPA, is a seasoned finance executive, entrepreneur, and advisor with deep experience supporting founders, executive teams, and investors through growth, complexity, and liquidity events. He has built, scaled, and exited businesses, served as CFO for venture-backed and private equity-backed companies, and advised boards on strategy, capital structure, and value creation.

Bob began his career at a **Big 4 accounting firm**, where he developed a strong foundation in accounting, audit, financial reporting, and internal controls implementation. He later founded and scaled his own professional services firm to a team of 30 before successfully selling the business to Deloitte. Since then, Bob has served as CFO and strategic advisor to enterprise SaaS, fintech, healthcare, and manufacturing companies. He also led a SaaS company from \$3M to \$10M in ARR prior to its \$100M private equity acquisition.

Bob has worked extensively with institutional and venture capital investors, supporting portfolio companies of top-tier firms that included:

- **Bessemer Venture Partners**
- **Madrona Partners**
- **Telescope Partners**
- **Bling Capital**

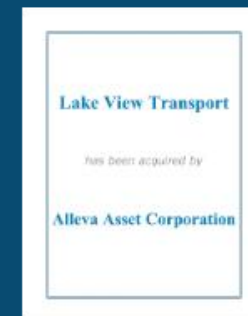
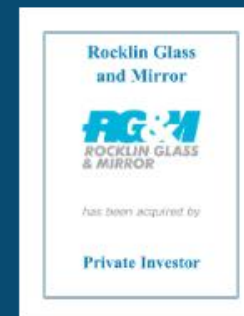
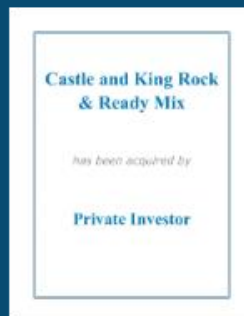
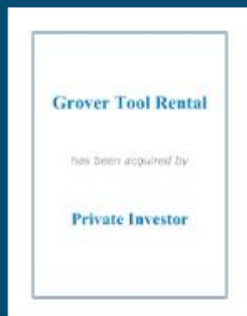
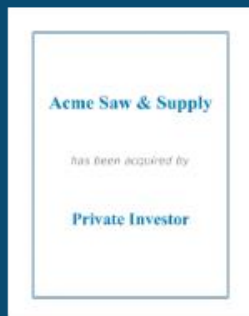
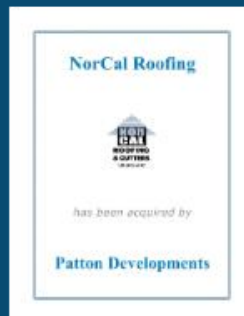
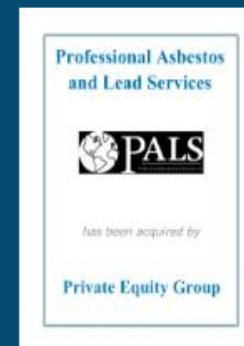
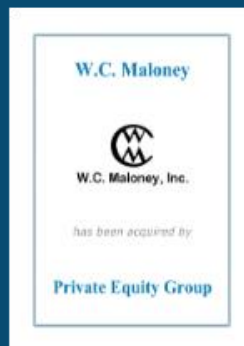
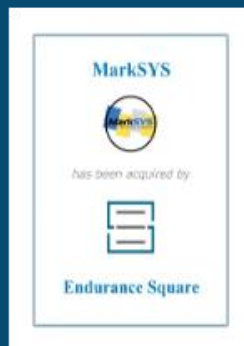
His work with these portfolio companies focused on cleaning up financials, debt restructuring, and executing operational turnarounds in preparation for deployment of capital by professional and institutional investors.

Bob has specialized expertise in the following industries:

- **Technology & SaaS**
- **Fintech & payments**
- **Healthcare & professional services**
- **Manufacturing**
- **Consumer products & services**

Bob holds a **CPA designation** and earned his MBA from UC Berkeley Haas School of Business.

Representative M&A and Transaction Tombstones



Representative M&A and Transaction Tombstones

Sepac Energy Systems



has been acquired by



ES Solar

Real Property Management



has been acquired by

Private Investor

Smog Mart



has been acquired by

Private Investor

Door Conversions



has been acquired by

Private Investor



Fratcher Auto Body

has been acquired by



Fix Auto Collision

Don's Awnings



has been acquired by

TCrown Acquisitions

Integrated Design & Fabrication



has been acquired by



Stodtmeister Iron

Junk Patrol



has been acquired by

Private Investor

Garage Experts of El Dorado Hills



has been acquired by

Private Investor

HLA Group



has been acquired by



QK, Inc.

Subway & Florist

has been acquired by

Private Investor

Commercial Restaurant Services

has been acquired by

Commercial Kitchen Services

Marin Weight Loss & Wellness

has been acquired by

Private Investor

Client Testimonials & Transaction Credibility

Selected client feedback reflecting M&A, Quality of Earnings, diligence, and value creation support.

[VIEW CLIENT TESTIMONIALS HERE](#)

➤ “I have worked closely with the Avant Advisory team for over 8 years. Avant is a very reputable firm with a resourceful team that provides exceptional service and delivers on what they say. They are very hands-on, knowledgeable, transparent, trustworthy and demonstrate integrity. HD Buttercup VP Finance.”

Ryan Hung
VP Finance, HBD Finance

➤ “Over the years, I have worked with Avant in several capacities—investment opportunities, an interim executive engagement, etc.—and I am continually looking for ways to work with them more—for quality-of-earnings engagements, M&A support, etc. With Avant, I know that I’ll get high-quality, efficient, and relevant work and even more importantly, I know that I’ll be working with true professionals and a partner.”

Rolando Capinpin
Former Director, Z Capital Partners

➤ “I have worked with Jim Davidson for or over 25 years, both in his capacity as the Chief Financial Officer of two major corporations and as a consultant, utilizing his forensic specialization skills, his financial and strategic planning skills involving mergers and acquisitions, and advice on the duties of officers and directors of a major financial institution. Jim is always current on the latest laws and regulations, is in touch with industry trends, and is a skilled communicator. It is rare to find an individual with the wealth of knowledge, and the depth of hands-on experience in one package. Having Jim Davidson and Avant Advisory on your side makes a difference!”

Michael Angel, Esq.
Partner, Snell & Wilmer

Client Testimonials & Transaction Credibility

Selected client feedback reflecting M&A, Quality of Earnings, diligence, and value creation support.

[VIEW CLIENT TESTIMONIALS HERE](#)



"Avant and Jim Davidson got us there so fast that we were ready. Had we not engaged Avant, there is no way that we would have been ready for the multi-million acquisition."

Anthony Nardo
CFO, Reborn Cabinets



"Avant Advisory prepared us and helped us to secure additional offers. I thought the buyout at that value would be impossible, but it happened!"

Gary Mazzone
President, Elite Global Solutions



"Jim and Avant[®] Advisory Group are of the highest caliber of professionals in the industry. Avant[®] Advisory Group was brought in for the Quality of Earnings investigation and reporting for our company's sale. Avant[®] provided an interdisciplinary approach addressing both operational and financial areas that were extraordinary. Beyond his functional expertise which is impressive, it is Jim's affable style that makes it so easy for him to probe and get to the root issues without undue drama or stress in the organization. Avant's conclusions were straightforward, well presented, and actionable. I would highly recommend Jim and Avant for M&A support, forensic accounting, or any related restructuring work! Jim is a true industry icon!"

Steve Dickstein
CEO, Liquid Technologies, Inc



"As a senior vice president of a major lending institution, I had the pleasure of working with Avant Advisory through two trying situations when dealing with troubled companies. I found them as the consummate professionals: insightful, practical, thorough, knowledgeable, team player, personable, and extremely capable. We could not have achieved such successful solutions without their sound advice and recommendations."

Ian Wong
Former Senior Vice President, Wells Fargo Bank

Accolades, Press & Market Recognition

Selected firm and leadership recognition supporting credibility in M&A and financial advisory.



AVANT® ADVISORY GROUP CONGRATULATES JIM DAVIDSON ON BECOMING A CERTIFIED EXIT PLANNING ADVISOR (CEPA)

Jim Davidson, president and founder of Avant® Advisory Group, has earned the Certified Exit Planning Advisor (CEPA) designation, awarded by the Exit Planning Institute (EPI).

[Read more](#)



JIM DAVIDSON RECOGNIZED AS AN "ICON" IN ABF JOURNAL'S 2025 LEGENDS & LEADERS ISSUE

This inaugural edition celebrates top professionals across the specialty finance space who are shaping the industry's future through innovation, leadership, and impact.

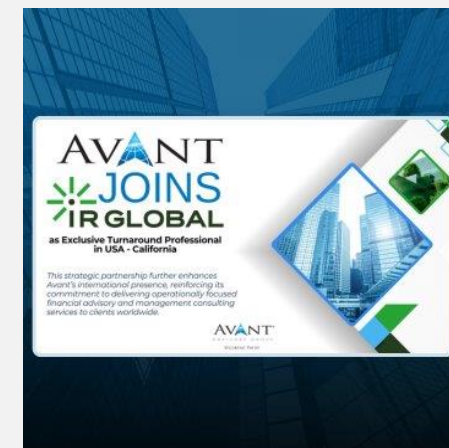
[Read more](#)



BANKING & FINANCE VISIONARIES 2025

Jim Davidson, CIRA, CTP, CM&AA, CM&AP, CPA, CFF, CFE, CGMA, FCPA, CD, CBA has been featured in the annual Banking & Finance Visionaries 2025.

[Read more](#)



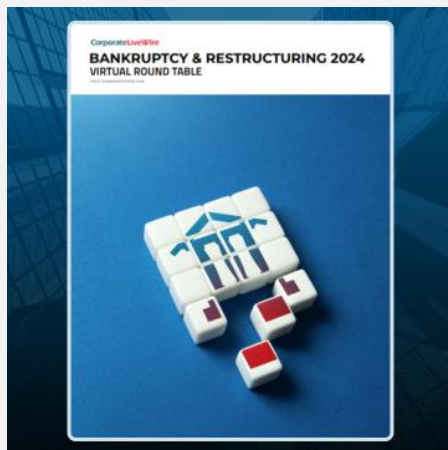
IR GLOBAL HAS DESIGNATED JAMES F DAVIDSON OF AVANT® ADVISORY GROUP AS EXCLUSIVE TURNAROUND PROFESSIONAL IN USA CALIFORNIA

The network includes only one member per practice area and jurisdiction. Avant® Advisory has now increased its international reach by joining the world's largest, renowned professional advisory services network.

[Read more](#)

Accolades, Press & Market Recognition

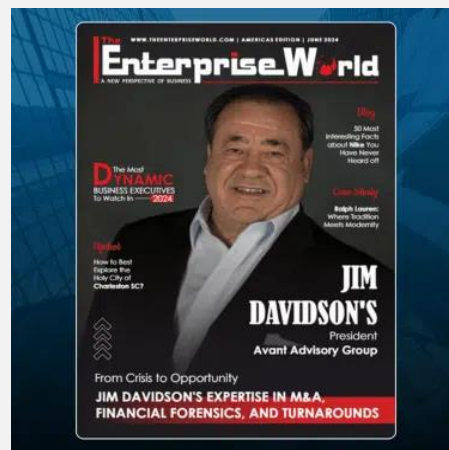
Selected firm and leadership recognition supporting credibility in M&A, exit planning, and financial advisory.



VIRTUAL ROUND TABLE – BANKRUPTCY & RESTRUCTURING 2024

Jim Davidson has been featured in the Bankruptcy & Restructuring 2024 Virtual Roundtable. This insightful discussion explores rising corporate debt levels, industries most at risk, and predictions for 2025.

[Read more](#)



THE MOST DYNAMIC BUSINESS EXECUTIVES TO WATCH IN 2024

Jim Davidson is featured on the cover of The Enterprise World's issue, "The Most Dynamic Business Executives to Watch In 2024." This issue honors the leaders who are redefining industries, driving innovation, and setting new standards of excellence.

[Read more](#)



TECHNOLOGY EXECUTIVE, GUILLERMO AVILA, JOINS AVANT® ADVISORY GROUP

With over 30 years of experience in technology leadership, project management, and IT strategy, Guillermo has held senior executive positions, including CIO and Director of Information Technology.

[Read more](#)



FINANCIAL SERVICES VETERAN, RANDY GOEKEN, BECOMES AVANT ADVISORY GROUP'S DIRECTOR OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Randy has extensive expertise in originating, analyzing, and structuring transactions involving Asset-Based Lending, Structured Finance, Mezzanine Financing, Credit Analysis, and Commercial Banking.

[Read more](#)

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Selected Clients



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RESEARCH AND MANAGEMENT, INC.

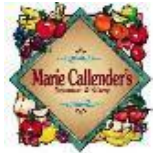


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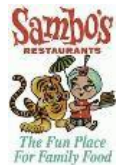
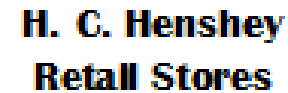


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Avant® Advisory Group is Biblically based and serves God and our clients with the highest honor and integrity.