



Best leadership lyric: “You can dream, create, design, and build the most wonderful place in the world ... but it requires people to make the dream a reality.” - Walt Disney

AMY RIBICK, 38

Principal, Brown Smith Wallace

40 UNDER FORTY

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2016 Award Winner

Making a measurable difference is more than a company slogan for Amy Ribick of accounting firm Brown Smith Wallace.

It’s the real deal for Ribick – “in her DNA,” says Brown Smith Wallace Partner Ted Flom. “It’s how she lives her life, which is seen in her daily interactions with clients, employees and through her many volunteering efforts.”

In August, Ribick assumed a lead role in the firm’s growth curve in the financial institutions niche, part of Brown Smith Wallace’s Advisory Services practice. In this specialty, the firm has achieved 15 percent year-over-year growth over the last four years, with a bigger leap of 40 percent expected for 2015 when those numbers are complete. Revenue for the financial institutions niche went from \$650,000 in 2014 to more than \$1 million in 2015.

Ribick brought an internal-audit skill set with her when she joined the firm 10 years ago after stints in this facet of accounting with Saint Louis University and the former Argosy casino. She defers credit for growth in the financial institutions niche to the team she heads.

“It’s the hard work and dedication of a team of people,” she says. “It’s a niche we already had a focus on, but that we put additional marketing efforts into, to showcase our expertise in this area.”

Financial institutions have experienced increased regulatory oversight in the wake of the 2008 recession. For banks, Brown Smith Wallace’s Advisory Services practice offers a range of expertise on dealing with internal audits, IT security and regulatory compliance.

Ribick also serves as the firm’s “go-to expert” on COSO 2013, an accounting-industry standard framework for risk and controls, and has written articles on the subject for professional journals on accounting practice.

The Advisory Services practice was a relatively small part of the firm’s business portfolio when Ribick joined the practice in 2005, but it has grown dramatically—from eight professionals 10 years ago to 53 currently.

College and degrees? Saint Louis University, B.S. in accounting; Webster University, MBA