

Meet Our Business Acceleration Services (BAS) Consulting Team



Robert Anderson, BAS Manager
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Robert Anderson is a small business turn-around expert and business coach with success restoring value to businesses throughout North America. He has a track record of small business success, identifying harmful constraints and implementing solutions to restore long-term organizational and financial health. He served in various senior management roles in high-tech businesses with national and international presence. As a change agent reforming practices in these businesses and later as a consultant to small businesses, he has created numerous learning guides, manuals and reference works to support the best-practice campaigns he headed. Since 1995, Robert has provided life-changing training and leadership to clients in the U.S. and Canada, serving as a consultant for International Profit Associates and for Small Business Advocacy Center, his private practice located in northern Colorado. He is a lecturer in the Monfort College of Business at University of Northern Colorado and earned an MA in English from the University of Arkansas and an MBA from the University of Memphis. Robert joined BAS in 2010 and became its Manager in 2011.



Andrew Hesch, BAS Consultant
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Andrew Hesch has been a business entrepreneur and educator for more than three decades, overseeing numerous business ventures in the accounting, real estate, hospitality and healthcare industries. He has held positions with the international accounting firm Deloitte, owned a private accounting practice, was a developer and independent broker in residential and commercial real estate, and was a principal in hospitality consulting and development companies. He worked with international hotel companies such as Choice Hotels, Radisson, and Interstate Hotels. Since 2007, he has been in business as an independent Health and Life Insurance Broker and was among the first to become certified with Colorado's Connect for Health Marketplace. Andy has held full-time faculty, lecturer and adjunct faculty positions in business, accounting and teacher education at universities and community colleges in Metro Denver and Boulder. At the University of Colorado-Boulder, he completed doctoral coursework in Business Administration and earned an MA in Education. He is CPA certified with licenses in real estate, insurance, accounting and teaching. Andy joined the BAS team in 2007.



Jason Jacksack, BAS Consultant
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Jason Jacksack is a bilingual Spanish-speaking business consultant. He has experience founding/co-founding and leading two Colorado startup firms for over 5 years, combined with more than 20 years of operational and financial leadership experience earned while employed at Fortune 500 firms, large and mid-sized corporations, and in state and federal government. His expertise encompasses retail, real estate (commercial and residential), financial services, insurance, manufacturing, education (for-profit and not-for-profit), energy, medical and high tech sectors. He particularly enjoys working through and developing frameworks to address the regulatory, marketing and operational challenges facing small business owners in rapidly-changing markets. Jason teaches finance, economics and business management at the University of Colorado at Denver. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in international economics and Spanish from the University of Illinois-Champaign, graduating with distinction, and an MBA with a finance concentration from the University of Chicago. Jason's family has worked in entrepreneurial ventures for decades so he appreciates and enjoys working with the many passionate entrepreneurs who are CEF borrowers. Jason joined the BAS team in 2016.

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Sydney Lapidus, BAS Consultant
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Sydney Lapidus brings over 14 years of business experience in all aspects of QuickBooks. From training individuals and groups in setting up their QuickBooks to helping them complete reconciliations, reports, quarterly reviews, payables and receivables, Sydney empowers small business clients to master this accounting program on MAC or PC platforms. Serving various businesses in manufacturing and maintenance industries to professional firms and food service providers, Sydney helps clients, either remotely or onsite, in the Denver Metro area and nearby suburbs to manage their accounts so they can grow their businesses and be successful. Prior to coming to Denver and opening her QuickBooks consulting firm, Sydney lived in New York City where she managed an information services center for American manufacturers. She holds a master's and a bachelor's degree, and enjoys music, concerts, movies, ballroom dancing, museums and good conversation. Sydney joined the BAS team in 2009.



Chris Ricci, BAS Consultant
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Chris Ricci, founder and managing owner of CR-Law LLC in Denver, advises clients on legal and strategic issues facing growing and established companies. As companies chart their course, from raising funds to deploying capital, making acquisitions, exit planning, and laying the proper legal foundation upon which the company can thrive, it is important they work closely with their attorney. Chris is a trusted advisor and provides customized solutions to address his clients' specific needs. With a bachelor's degree in accounting from Fort Lewis College in Durango, plus a master's in finance and JD from the University of Denver, Chris understands the complex needs facing today's businesses. In addition to providing legal services, Chris also is a commercial real estate broker assisting clients in finding the optimal home for their business or real estate investment. Chris joined the BAS team in 2016.



Barb Wells, BAS Consultant
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Barb Wells advises clients on business growth and tax planning, joint ventures, exit and succession planning, employment law, and other business matters. Business owners and advisors seeking counsel on business growth and tax planning, as well as, exit and succession planning are often in constant contact with their attorney. Barb is a trusted advisor to her clients and provides proactive and strategic options to fit their needs. Prior to joining the Minor & Brown team in 1985, Barb completed her undergraduate degree at the University of Michigan in 1974 and went on to graduate from the University of Colorado-School of Law in 1984 with Order of the Coif honors. In addition to all of her legal responsibilities, Barb has one more responsibility to uphold at all times - provide her office with a mascot! An animal lover, Barb is an official Puppy Raiser for Guide Dogs for the Blind and is rarely seen around the office without a new, four-footed recruit. Barb joined the BAS team in 2012.

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Rose Melville, BAS Consultant
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Rose Melville, CPA, helps CEF borrowers with their QuickBooks and other accounting issues. As a QuickBooks ProAdvisor, Rose gives an introductory session to referred clients to help them with their accounting questions. This introduction includes basic bookkeeping and accounting terms and definitions, how to reconcile their accounts in preparation for filing income tax forms, and how to read financial statements to understand the shape their business is taking. Before joining BAS, Rose was an engineer at Hewlett-Packard Company for 23 years and also worked as an accountant before opening her private CPA practice. She holds bachelor's degrees in accounting from the University of Northern Colorado and in economics from Clarke College in Iowa, and completed graduate study in computer science at Colorado State University. She passed the CPA exam in 2003. In her spare time, Rose enjoys hiking and biking in the mountains, and caring for her animals (goats and chickens) with her husband Al. Rose joined the BAS team in 2010.