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**29%** of coworkers discuss  
sports daily on the job.

Source: Yahoo! HotJobs site poll, February 2008

# Gaines Kriner Elliott, LLP

**E**stablished in 1923, Gaines Kriner Elliott LLP provides professional audit, accounting and tax services to clients in Western New York. The company has a solid reputation as a superior CPA and advisory firm with dedicated people who possess the expertise, relationship skills and perseverance needed to help clients succeed in a global economy.

"Our firm's emphasis is to build a trusted relationship with our clients, deliver value and target ways to help contribute to their success," said Thomas Lis, business manager.

While GKE has always served as a professional advisor to area clients, the company formalized this offering in the late 1970s with the establishment of a Business Consulting Group. In an effort to fully address an ever-increasing global marketplace, Gaines Kriner also added Asset Based Lending Services through the establishment of the ABL Group in 1998. And in 2004, the company merged with J.D. Elliott & Co. P.C., which had been practicing continuously since 1913 — the year the IRS first published its regulations.

This solidified the resources Gaines Kriner Elliott provides today, which includes accounting and auditing, tax planning and compliance, U.S. and Canadian business consulting and tax services, asset-based lending, business improvement services, business succession, employee benefit plan audits, estate planning, and fraud prevention.

"We are the only Western New York firm that is an independent member of CPAAssociatesInternational, Inc.," added Lis. "CPA Associates provides us with a

rare blend of local knowledge, national and international expertise through its association of 47 independent member firms in North America and 91 overseas firms in 59 countries. This access to the diverse resources and talents of fellow member firms enhances our ability to serve our clients in a rapidly changing global environment."

GKE is a friendly, professional firm with an atmosphere conducive to employee interaction and teamwork. Lis describes the working environment as "work hard, play hard" because employees work hard in exceeding client expectations while maintaining a good balance in personal and professional life through flexible hours and schedule, liberal paid time off and numerous social

activities. "It is a firm where you will develop close relationships with clients and make lifetime friends with fellow employees," he said.

Steven Weigand, a supervisor who has been with the company for seven years, described GKE as an extended family. "It's the people that I work with that make me want to come in each day."

"GKE has a friendly, open atmosphere where a work/life balance is promoted and encouraged," offered Cheryl Prout, CPA and partner at GKE. "We make sure



Office meeting: Sean Grieco, MIS Manager; Kelly Trella, Human Resources Assistant; Angela Larratta, Senior Associate; and Brooke Vincent, Accounting Assistant. On the cover: Rocco Surace, Managing Partner; Jeffrey Couchman, Partner; and Angela Larratta, Senior Associate.

we do everything possible to create a flexible and family-friendly workplace."

GKE not only provides employees with a comfortable work environment, cutting edge technology, ongoing training and support, but also the opportunity to work initially in both audit and tax rather than being locked into one or the other. This allows employees the opportunity to gain a broad foundation in needed skills, as well as to let them experience all aspects of public accounting. The company continually encourages its professionals to take initiative in directing their careers.

"While our first commitment is always to our clients, our first responsibility is to our employees," said Lis.

GKE is focused on helping associates achieve their goals in terms of professional satisfaction, career progression and personal development through continuing education, personal development planning and mentorships.

"We recruit talented and dedicated people who are not only creative thinkers and self-motivators, but also have superior technical abilities plus excellent communication skills and can deliver high-quality client service," said Lis. "We really value our associates' work ethic and encourage them to

maintain a healthy balance between their professional and personal life."

"The flexible hours make it possible to get your work done and have time for your family," said Sean Grieco, MIS manager.

GKE has been nominated by its employees as one of the Best Places to Work for the past three years. They continually hold "meet and greet" events, such as "Meet the Accountant's Nights," accounting dinners, on-campus interviewing, office get-togethers and tours, as well as lunches and happy hours with the staff. A majority of GKE professionals are licensed CPAs. Recent college graduates joining the firm have a primary professional goal of meeting the rigorous qualifications necessary to obtain their CPA license. The company also encourages and rewards its associates for obtaining licensure by offering bonus incentives for those who pass the exam within three years of his or her start date.

The main office of Gaines Kriner Elliott LLP is located at 100 Corporate Pkwy. in Amherst, with another location in East Aurora. Send all cover letters and resumes to Thomas Lis by e-mail to [tlis@gkecpa.com](mailto:tlis@gkecpa.com). Fax to (716) 250-6605. If you are interested in learning more about GKE and all the company has to offer, visit [www.gkecpa.com](http://www.gkecpa.com).

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