

Randall C. Sorensen, CPA



Randall Sorensen became a Certified Public Accountant in 1980, and immediately began his career in public accounting. He gained valuable forensic accounting and litigation experience for the Big Eight accounting firm of Coopers & Lybrand, and before that worked as a Senior Auditor for Merabank and Burlington Northern, and as an Auditor /Tax Consultant for Borowicz Holmgren, Certified Public Accountants in Minneapolis. Randall received his Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of North Dakota.

Randall's work in forensic accounting and expert testimony in the impeachment trial of former Governor Evan Mecham resulted in a commendation from the Speaker of House of Representatives.

During the last 22 years Mr. Sorensen has provided his forensic accounting skills to every major insurance company in the United States. In addition he has been retained by top law firms for his accounting expertise. Randall has been retained on over 1,200 engagements as a forensic accounting expert. Listed below is additional information on his professional experience:

Tempe,
Arizona
1986 – 2009

RANDALL C. SORENSEN, CPA

Certified Public Accountant

Practice provides professional, personalized CPA services, including business management consulting, business evaluation, asset valuation, personal injury valuation, litigation support and expert testimony, tax planning and preparation, financial statements, and investment counseling. Further he has written and developed computer programs that streamline document discovery and perform diagnostic analysis of tax returns.

Phoenix,
Arizona
1985 – 1986

COOPERS & LYBRAND, CPAs

Senior Consultant

Developed budgets and work plans for management consulting and work plans for management consulting engagements, supervised, assisted and instructed staff, performed technical analysis, reviewed all work papers prepared progress reports; communicated results to clients, managers and partners, and drafted reports. Additional skills acquired within the big eight environment include computer applications; excel spreadsheet analysis, report writing, time management, and organizational skills.

Phoenix,
Arizona
1983 - 1984

MERABANK

Senior Auditor

Involved in multiple special projects initiated by this major financial institution. Duties included all aspects of financial analysis and evaluation of management/operating procedures. Performed project feasibility studies and cost center forecasting. Developed and implemented strategic and corporate plans. Directly accountable for management and training of seven employees. Duties included performing financial audits on real estate subsidiary and supervising operational audits in the investment, data processing, commercial real estate, and branch operations departments.

St. Paul,
Minnesota
1981 – 1983

BURLINGTON NORTHERN FINANCIAL SERVICES

Senior Auditor

Planned, developed and supervised operational audits for purchasing, materials, and revenue forecasting departments. Duties included the complete management and supervision of audits performed on oil and gas subsidiaries. Also coordinated joint venture audits. Gathered and documented all reports and evaluations related to audits and presented to upper management.

Minneapolis,
Minnesota
1979 – 1981

BOROWICZ, HOLMGREN & CO., CPAs

Auditor/Tax Consultant

Supervised and performed certified audits for various clients. Conducted compilations and reviewed for construction, wholesale, and retail corporations. Established, implemented and monitored budgets for each client. Consulted with upper management on business activities, fixed asset acquisition, depreciation and tax planning. Provided cash flow and ROI projections on real estate ventures. Responsible for preparation of corporate and individual tax returns.

CURRENT LICENSES and LICENSES HELD

- Certified Public Accountant
- Securities Representative
- Real Estate Agent
- Insurance Agent

ASSOCIATIONS

American Institute of Certified Public Accountants
Arizona Society of Certified Public Accountants
North Dakota Society of Certified Public Accountants
National Association of Tax Practitioners

Mecham Pontiac needed \$66,000, accountant says

By Rosemary Schabert Case
Tribune writer

PHOENIX — Evan Mecham was deep in debt when he ordered \$80,000 in inaugural proceeds loaned to his auto dealership, witnesses in the impeached governor's Senate trial testified Wednesday.

An examination of Mecham Pontiac records by Randall Sorensen, a certified public accountant, shows the dealership would have faced a payday overdraft of roughly \$66,000 without the July loan.

The loan was repaid in November after deposits into the Mecham Pontiac account were made by sources related to Mecham, including Mecham's brothers Willard and Wayne, said Sorensen, a prosecution witness.

Sorensen took issue with Mecham's testimony before a House impeachment committee that there was no special need for the loan and that he took it out so the fund could earn 9 percent interest.

Asked by prosecution attorney Paul Eckstein whether Mecham's statements were true, Sorensen replied, "No. That's not an opinion. It's a fact. Unless those funds had been paid from the protocol fund, Mecham Pontiac would have had an overdraft the following Wednesday in excess of \$60,000."

Sorensen also testified that records showed that on the day the money from the protocol fund was deposited in the dealership's account, Mecham Pontiac made bank pay-



MICHAEL SCI

Accountant Randall Sorensen testified Wednesday on the financial condition of Mecham Pontiac.

Please see **Senate / A7**

PROBE: No DPS tampering found / A7

LETTER: Hawkins wants job back / A7

CPA called in Mecham trial is TNT, and Leonard knows it

Randall Sorensen sat quietly at a chair next to the cafeteria-style table used by the prosecutors in Gov. Evan Mecham's impeachment trial. It was Wednesday morning.

He is a tall, clean-cut man, the kind of shirt-tie-jacket fellow who seems to have been pressed from a mold and set loose on the streets of downtown Phoenix.

If someone were to tell you that he was a certified public accountant who belonged to a local Republican club — both of which are true — you would probably just nod your head and say, "It figures."

Sorensen sat on the chair holding a black, loose-leaf binder on his lap. Inside the binder were numbers on ledger sheets that Sorensen, at the request of the prosecution, had used to analyze the state of Mecham's Pontiac dealership at the time that Mecham lent his business \$80,000 from the governor's protocol fund.

The propriety of that loan is the second article of impeachment being considered by the state Senate.

The thought of listening to an accountant talk about figures, however, wasn't exactly my idea of exhilarating testimony. I was preparing to leave the Senate chamber and look for some better way to spend my day when defense attorney Jerris Leonard stood up and announced that he objected to Sorensen's even being given the opportunity to testify. He wanted to address the court about it.

I decided to stay. Leonard faced the senators. He kept



E.J. Montini
Republic
Columnist

his left hand in his pants pocket, jangling some change. His demeanor is friendly, easygoing. There is no shrillness to his voice, as there is with Mecham's other attorney, Fred Craft. Leonard is a high-priced Washington, D.C. attorney with a down-home, back-porch attitude.

It was clear Wednesday morning, however, that he was worried about Sorensen. He wanted to keep him quiet.

"I would submit to you that the financial condition of Mecham Pontiac is totally irrelevant to the issues you have before you," Leonard told the senators.

"There isn't any question, it couldn't be denied that Mecham Pontiac needed to borrow \$80,000. I'm certain that the money would not have been loaned to Mecham Pontiac if there had not been some kind of need. The actual financial condition of the company, in my view, is simply the introduction of evidence and testimony that wastes the time of the court, that is highly prejudicial and serves no valid purpose."

Leonard is a very smart attorney. He knew that Chief Justice Frank X. Gordon Jr., the presiding officer in the trial, probably wouldn't prohibit Sorensen from testifying. His only chance was to appeal to the senators, who might not understand the legal ramifications, to bar Sorensen's testimony.

Prosecutor Paul Eckstein, who already stood at the lectern used by the attorneys, was prepared for Leonard's objection.

In fact, it was as if Leonard had played into Eckstein's hands. It gave Eckstein the opportunity to deliver a synopsis of the testimony Sorensen was about to give.

It has been Mecham's defense that the \$80,000 loan from the protocol fund to Mecham Pontiac was simply a way of making more money for the fund.

The picture that Eckstein was about to describe, however, was of a businessman, Mecham, whose company was in desperate need of immediate cash, who had access to a large amount of money, borrowed \$80,000 of it, then tried, at least partly, to cover up the whole transaction.

"We will demonstrate from Mr. Sorensen's testimony that the loan was not secure, that it was not safe," Eckstein said. "It is relevant to determine whether it was safe, whether it was secure and, ultimately, whether it was in the best interest of the state."

"Secondly, it is relevant because it shows motive for the loan. It was not simply as the governor has said and, indeed, as Mr. Leonard said in his opening statement yesterday, an opportunity solely to make more money for the fund."

"Mecham Pontiac, we will demonstrate from Mr. Sorensen's testimony, was in desperate need of the \$80,000 on July 16, 1987, when Mr. (Jim) Colter (then Mecham's chief of staff) went down, left his busy schedule, and wrote the check."

Eckstein added that, although Leonard admitted that the company needed the money, Mecham had testified before the House that the company didn't need the money.

"And that leads to the third reason for the testimony. It goes directly to the respondent's credibility," Eckstein said. "In the House, respondent testified that Mecham Pontiac did not need the money. We will demonstrate, through Mr. Sorensen, that those things weren't true."

When Eckstein was finished, Gordon allowed Sorensen to testify.

The Senate could have voted to override Gordon's decision, but not a single senator said a word.

Sorensen testified and talked about all of the things Eckstein had mentioned. It was a fascinating moment and added another strange twist to an already strangely twisted trial.

Last week, the defense tried to present a blockbuster witness to discredit prosecution witness Ralph Milshead, the director of the Department of Public Safety. But the blonde bombshell, Christina Johnston, turned out to be a bust. Much of what would have been her testimony was disallowed.

The prosecution didn't go looking for bombs, but only for an accountant. Somehow, he turned out to be a bombshell.