

## 2024 Ones to Watch Rising Stars: Joseph Ragusa, Fuoco Group/TFG Accounting and Tax

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Joseph Ragusa
Tax and Accounting Senior Associate

"Joe Ragusa came to us as an intern, still at St. Joseph's College. He was always very driven and motivated. He got a Master's Degree and is now sitting for the CPA exam. The skills he has built over the last 5-6 years, quality work product, and a list of satisfied clients, earned him promotion after promotion. He is now cross-trained in audit AND tax, and works on both for-profit AND not-for profit entities, which is very unusual in the accounting world – but a testament to his energy and engagement in the industry. He is now a coach and mentor to the new Interns and young staff!" - Susan Kaplan, Human Resources Director at Fuoco Group/TFG Accounting and Tax.

Beyond your professional achievements, what are some of your passions or hobbies? I like adventure! I enjoy beach volleyball, hiking, and riding my motorcycle, a 2021 Royal Enfield Himalayan. I read books ranging from philosophy to science fiction. Moreover, I look for opportunities to serve my church; being their treasurer since 2019 has been very rewarding work. I love what I do at the accounting firm, and will be sitting for the CPA exam this year.

How do you balance your rising career with your personal life? Work-life balance means effective time management. Achieving my career goals often seems like a daunting task, but I keep faith and family at the top of my priority list. There is an inherent separation between career and personal life, but I believe there should also be a sense of "connectedness." Practicing my faith and providing for my family, being honest and hard-working, has created great opportunities.

Who are the key people in your life that have contributed to your success? Undoubtedly, my parents. I believe the principles they instilled in me, the example they set, and sacrifices they have made for me and my siblings, serve as a foundation for any goal I aim for, and achieve. They have demonstrated the importance and rewards of hard-work, honesty, and loyalty. Additionally, Lou Fuoco CPA, and the TFG team, have been instrumental to my growth in knowledge, confidence, and professionalism.

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