

## Introduction

Actuarial Consultants, Inc. ([www.acibenefits.com](http://www.acibenefits.com)), located in Torrance, CA was established in 1983 by Pat Byrnes to serve professional practices, entrepreneurial enterprises, and mid-sized businesses.

ACI offers fiduciary risk consulting, retirement plan design, and third-party plan administration (TPA) services.

ACI also delivers consulting and actuarial services to companies who are concerned about their retirement plan's ability to support a new stage of growth, a merger or acquisition, or the founder's exit.

Supporting the growth of founder-led businesses, ACI partners with the client's financial advisor, advises retirement plan fiduciaries, the HR leader and the benefits team, and serves as the company's trusted TPA.

ACI serves each client with 3 goals in mind: minimize fiduciary risk, maximize employees' benefits, and maintain pace with regulatory change in the pension industry.

ACI is certified by the Centre For Fiduciary Excellence (CEFEX), and meets the standards set by the American Society of Pension Professionals and Actuaries (ASPPA).



Pat Byrnes, MSPA EA, MAAA  
Founder and President

## Actuarial Consultants, Inc.'s Experience with the Program

Pat Byrnes, MSPA EA, MAAA, Founder and President, recognized the need for third party verification that Actuarial Consultants, Inc. follows best practices and therefore undertook a CEFEX assessment to attain the ASPPA Service Provider Certification for his firm. As an advocate of Fiduciary Responsibility, Pat has been very active in advancing federal legislation, educating business leaders, and publishing on the topic of fiduciary excellence.

"Doing the job right with consistency is as tough as it has ever been, with the layers and layers of laws and regulations" says Pat Byrnes. We already have strong professional competencies and a strategic approach to advising founder-based businesses. The CEFEX program, which sets the standard for managing investment risk, enables us to bring risk management best practices into our client's operation, so they can earn their employees' trust. It also enables us to play an assurance role as we deliver Fiduciary Consulting and serve as Third-Party Plan Administrator.

Actuarial Consultants, Inc.'s initially became certified in 2009 and has completed each year's renewal with continued incremental improvement. ACI proudly displays the CEFEX/ASPPA Certification seal on its website and electronic signatures.

ACI is a non-producing third party administrator which does not recordkeep or advise on the assets. It relies on outside advisor partnerships to grow its business. The CEFEX certification has increased credibility with advisors using ACI in the marketplace.

Actuarial Consultants, Inc. is a firm that strives for and achieves a high standard of practice. The goal is to provide a culture of caring for its clients and outside partners. The firm's Mission is to help people retire through well-designed and serviced employer-sponsored retirement plans.

## CEFEX

CEFEX, Centre For Fiduciary Excellence provides independent verification of an organization's conformity with all Practices and Criteria that constitute a Standard applicable to a particular function involved in the management of other people's financial assets. Whether as trustees or investment committee members of foundations, endowments or retirement plans, or as an Investment Advisor, Asset Manager, Recordkeeper or other service provider, the need to demonstrate one's trustworthiness to one's constituents or clients is becoming increasingly more important.

CEFEX certification helps increase trust. It serves as a tool to publicly demonstrate best practices in fiduciary operations. It is a self-imposed due diligence for the benefit of an investor who has directly or indirectly entrusted financial assets to another. Such due diligence takes the form of an assessment process conducted by a CEFEX Analyst. This Analyst has achieved the Accredited Investment Fiduciary Analyst™ from Fi360, has extensive industry experience and has access to CEFEX experts in related disciplines.

Standardization is essential in achieving global acceptance of the principles of fiduciary excellence and to assuring investors of consistent, unbiased methodologies. CEFEX uses the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 19011 for performing assessments. This is a methodology employed internationally in other industries for over 30 years.

A successful CEFEX certification process, as confirmed by the CEFEX Registration Committee results in:

- A CEFEX certificate and Letter of Registration being issued:
- Registration on CEFEX's public database at [www.cefex.org](http://www.cefex.org)
- Permitted use of the CEFEX mark in both print and on-line form
- Issuance of a Public Certification Report suitable for distribution by the certified firm
- A News Release issued by CEFEX.

The CEFEX registration remains valid for 12 months and is extended through subsequent annual renewal assessments.

This Certified Firm Profile is one of a series demonstrating the experience of CEFEX certified firms, a growing community of investment firms and other entities who recognize the value and importance of fiduciary conformity.



**CEFEX Centre for Fiduciary Excellence, LLC.** is an independent certification organization. CEFEX works closely with industry experts to provide comprehensive assessment programs to promote fiduciary best practices. It certifies investment stewards, advisors, fiduciary advisers (PPA), managers, ASPPA recordkeepers, ASPPA administrators, and support services firms. To learn more about CEFEX, please visit [www.cefex.org](http://www.cefex.org):

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