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## **Interview: Robert Patterson**

Bacilio Mendez

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# INTERVIEW: ROBERT PATTERSON

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📅 November 13, 2020

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[Dr. Marcia Ruben](#), Assistant Professor and Chair of [GGU's Graduate Management Program](#), speaks with [Robert Patterson](#)—an [MS Taxation](#) alumnus and Director and Worldwide Tax & Trade Controller at [Microsoft](#)—about his life and career.

## Marcia Ruben in Conversation with GGU Alumnus Robert Patterson



Robert (MST '04), has enjoyed a storied career as a tax practitioner. Currently, he serves as a Microsoft director, ensuring internal control over financial reporting across all functional tax and trade areas. Previously, Robert worked on initiatives related to global and domestic tax compliance and policies with the Big Four accounting firms, multinational companies Walmart and American Express, and the state of

Kansas where he helped draft tax legislation. Throughout his career, Robert has taken bold risks—that sometimes raised eyebrows—and carved a unique path. He takes inspiration from his parents who moved their family from post-segregation Alabama to Alaska following his mother’s participation in the Selma, Alabama Bloody Sunday protest and enrollment in an Alabama community college amid aggressive discrimination. Their values of determination, diligence, and preparation have served him well.

Robert earned his Bachelor of Business Administration in Finance from Pacific Lutheran University and over the course of his career he earned an MBA in Finance and Accounting from Morehead State University, Master of Science in Operations Management from the University of Arkansas-Fayetteville, Master of Science in Taxation from Golden Gate University, Graduate Certificate in State & Local Taxation from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and he completed coursework in law at Washburn University’s School of Law.



### **Posted by Bacilio Mendez II**

Bacilio Mendez II is a fourth year Honors JD/MBA student at the GGU School of Law/Edward S. Ageno School of Business and is proud to be the founding editor of the GGU Tax Review. The former Director of Information and Compliance for Benjamin Madison Wealth Advisors, in 2013, Bacilio was named the National Lawyers Guild (NLG) Legal Worker of the Year and was an NLG 2012 W. Haywood Burns Memorial Fellow for Social & Economic Justice (focusing on data visualization of public information). Prior to law school, Bacilio earned a Master of Library and Information Science from Pratt Institute where he served the Kings County Supreme Court, of the New York State Unified Court System, as the 2010 Nathan R. Sobel Law Library Fellow and was inducted into Beta Phi Mu (the International Library & Information Studies Honor Society). Bacilio also holds a Bachelor of Arts in Modern Dance from Oberlin College and is a member of both the Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Television and Radio Artists and the Actors’ Equity Association.

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