

Burton K Bennett MBA

Manufacturing and Operational Finance

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Career Profile

Finance leader with 11+ years of progression from Marriott property and regional finance to multi-client advisory, cross-border controllership, and U.S.-Mexico finance leadership. Combines hands-on accounting with operating plans, cash forecasting, inventory and production costing, procurement, capital planning, and systems transformation. Current manufacturing finance experience at Blue Ocean Barns builds on warehouse and logistics finance at Casas and biotechnology, medical-device, and agriculture exposure at Signature Analytics.

Target roles: Financial Controller, Corporate Controller, Director of Finance, or Head of Finance in manufacturing, biotechnology, agriculture, logistics, and other inventory-intensive operating businesses.

Blue Ocean Barns

Director of Finance and Administration | Oct 2025-present

Controller | Jun-Oct 2025

Venture-backed climate-technology company with U.S. corporate operations and production activity in Mexico. Joined June 10, 2025; the role expanded into finance and administration leadership in October 2025. Owns U.S.-Mexico accounting, consolidated reporting, FP&A, cash, and executive decision support alongside procurement and administrative responsibilities.

Manufacturing Finance and Production Economics

- **Inventory and COGS.** Develops the accounting and information flow across raw materials, work in process, and finished goods, including distinct post-harvest processing stages. Connects purchasing records, production activity, consumption, and accounting to support reliable inventory valuation and cost of goods sold reporting.
- **Production costing.** Defines production-cost methodology and evaluates capitalization of CO₂, nutrients, direct labor, utilities, and post-harvest costs. Reconciles production and purchasing evidence, evaluates standard-cost proposals against actual-cost information, and prepares the foundation for margin and consumption reporting.
- **CapEx and CIP.** Designs and strengthens capital-expenditure and construction-in-progress controls so purchases are supported, correctly classified, approved, and traceable. Connects capital requirements to the operating plan, cash timing, and fixed-asset and depreciation support.
- **Operating partnership.** Works with leadership and operations on production assumptions, unit economics, purchasing commitments, staffing, and capital needs so finance reflects how the business produces and spends.

Blue Ocean Barns Continued

Director of Finance and Administration | U.S. and Mexico operations

Cash Planning and Executive Decision Support

- **13-week cash forecasting.** Builds and maintains short-term cash forecasts and operating scenarios that connect burn, runway, payables, staffing, production, CapEx, and payment timing. Prioritizes payments against available liquidity, operating urgency, and contractual obligations.
- **Annual operating plan.** Maintains operating plans and scenario views linking historical actuals, current commitments, production assumptions, spending, and capital requirements. Challenges outdated cost and CapEx inputs before they distort cash or runway decisions.
- **Cash governance.** Introduced bank-verified weekly cash reporting and reconciles actuals to forecasts, distinguishing recurring spend, capital expenditures, timing differences, and one-time items. Provides decision support to the President/COO and executive leadership, including board and investor materials.

Procurement and Finance Process Transformation

- **Procure-to-pay.** Strengthens purchase visibility, vendor records, invoice support, approvals, and payment documentation. Aligns procurement records with accounting and cash planning through Bill.com, Expensify, Airtable, and supporting workbooks.
- **Finance stabilization.** Worked through a legacy invoice and documentation backlog and established clearer ownership for submission, approval, payment, and reconciliation. Requires supporting contracts, invoices, and authorization when resolving vendor or collection claims.
- **Close and reporting.** Owns monthly close, account reconciliations, consolidated management reporting, and intercompany review. Connects U.S. and Mexico accounting workflows to consolidated forecasts and management reporting.

United States and Mexico Operations

- **Mexico finance.** Rebuilds local accounting workflows around bank activity, vendor documentation, invoice and IVA support, and consolidated reporting. Coordinates QuickBooks Online Mexico, Scotiabank activity, external accounting, and local payroll and employee administration.
- **Cross-border execution.** Coordinates intercompany logic, transfer-pricing support, cash transfers, banking documentation, and bilingual process communication. Prepares payment instructions and remittance controls across currencies and banking systems.
- **External advisers and risk.** Coordinates income-tax support schedules, fixed assets, depreciation, sales tax, VAT/IVA, and 409A inputs. Expanded responsibilities include HR administration, contracts, legal and compliance coordination, facilities, leases, and insurance matters.

Core Systems

QuickBooks Online U.S. and Mexico; Bill.com; Expensify; Fathom; Airtable; ProService payroll; U.S. and Mexico banking platforms; external-accountant and CONTPAQi coordination; Excel planning, inventory, and consumption models.

Cross Border Controllershship and Advisory

Casas International Brokerage

Financial Controller | Oct 2021-Jun 2025

Customs brokerage, freight forwarding, and bonded warehousing in the San Diego-Tijuana region. Operating scale included approximately 85 employees, a 120,000-square-foot bonded warehouse, and roughly 64,000 customs entries annually.

- **Operational finance ownership.** Owned reporting, reconciliations, variance analysis, cash planning, and management visibility into margins. Connected accounting to shipment and customer files, warehouse activity, reimbursements, pass-through charges, landed cost, and file-level profitability.
- **ERP and warehouse integration.** Advanced Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central implementation and integration with warehouse, CRM, and brokerage workflows, including Boltrics WMS and RB Systems. Standardized data movement and strengthened reconciliation of operational records to the general ledger.
- **Cash and reporting transformation.** Improved reporting timeliness and working-capital visibility in a business with substantial reimbursable and pass-through cash flows. Strengthened receivables, payables, transaction-level reconciliations, and management reporting.
- **Valuation and leadership.** Prepared internal enterprise-value analysis in the approximately \$45M-\$55M range and supported growth and M&A readiness discussions. Led a bilingual finance team, partnered with ownership and operations, and coordinated tax and cross-border compliance with external advisers.

Signature Analytics

Senior Accountant | Oct 2020-Sep 2021

Finance and Accounting Consultant in an outsourced controller and CFO support model. Signature Analytics is now part of Citrin Cooperman. Supported client close, reconciliations, financial statements, budgets, rolling forecasts, cash tools, dashboards, controls, and audit preparation across multiple industries and entities.

Selected Client Engagements

- **Ambrex.** Prepared a U.S.-Australia consolidated financial-statement workbook linking trial balances to balance sheet, P&L, cash flow, equity, comparative reporting, and intercompany mapping through a documented preparation and review process.
- **Cardea Bio and Omniome.** Provided recurring close support for Cardea Bio and audit-related work for Omniome within a portfolio of biotechnology, healthcare, and other operating businesses.
- **Organics Unlimited.** Recurring close and accounting engagement providing agriculture-sector exposure.
- **IQ-Analog and Levitate Technologies.** Performed scheduled month-end close work within the technical-company client portfolio.
- **Cue Healthcare and Toolbox Medical Innovations.** Additional portfolio exposure to healthcare and medical innovation through these client relationships.

Balanced eight active clients with multiple close and audit deadlines in July 2021. The portfolio added multi-entity reporting and industry breadth to the operating-finance foundation developed at Marriott.

Earlier Leadership and Professional Foundation

Marriott International

Property and Regional Finance Leadership | May 2015-Oct 2020

Progressed from Accounting Intern at JW Marriott Starr Pass to Assistant Director of Finance and Accounting, Senior Assistant Director of Finance, and Regional Senior Assistant Director of Finance. Supported full-service properties with approximately \$98M and \$185M in annual revenue and later provided interim finance leadership across West-region hotels.

- **Systems integration.** Led finance workstreams in the Starwood-to-Marriott conversion at Sheraton San Diego across accounts payable, receivables, labor reporting, cash, and procurement. Implemented procurement processes and trained operating teams during the transition.
- **Operational finance.** Built department budgets and forecasts, managed labor reporting with department heads, tracked capital spending, and supported working capital and cash. Scope included restaurants, rooms, marina operations, third-party vendors, and support departments.
- **Controls and process improvement.** Redesigned procurement and accrual practices, strengthened vendor reconciliations, and maintained audit performance above 95% at Marriott Marquis. Automated a USALI revenue and cost net-down process and created procurement tools distributed to approximately 235 Directors of Finance.
- **Regional and team leadership.** Stabilized accounting procedures at hotels with limited finance staffing, prepared operating and capital budgets, and provided reporting tools and training. Developed two finance managers through Marriott's internal management-development program.

Systems and Transformation Experience

- **Accounting and ERP.** Microsoft Dynamics 365 Business Central; QuickBooks Online U.S. and Mexico; Oracle PeopleSoft. Additional portfolio exposure to NetSuite and Sage/Peachtree; coordination with Mexico external accountants using CONTPAQi.
- **Operations and procurement.** Boltrics WMS, RB Systems, BirchStreet procurement, Airtable, Bill.com, and Expensify. Experience connecting purchasing, warehouse, transaction, and production records to accounting controls and reporting.
- **Planning and reporting.** Advanced Excel, Fathom, operating and cash-flow models, consolidations, valuation analysis, variance reporting, and KPI design. Additional exposure to Power BI and Tableau.

Education and Languages

Executive MBA | University of Arizona, Eller College of Management | May 2022

BS Business Administration in Finance | University of Arizona, Eller College of Management | May 2016

English and Spanish: fluent spoken Spanish; moderate written proficiency.

Career Progression

Marriott established enterprise controls and operating-finance discipline. Signature Analytics added multi-client and multi-entity execution. Casas expanded ownership into cross-border logistics, warehouse finance, ERP integration, and valuation. Blue Ocean Barns brings those capabilities into manufacturing finance, production economics, capital planning, and binational leadership.