



LANSING CHAPTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFIED FRAUD EXAMINERS



In This Issue

Fraud Talk Podcast:
Filling Your Anti-Fraud Toolbox

Upcoming Events

Sowing the Seeds of Success

Information at Her Fingertips

'Nearly impossible to trace' -
Michigan couple loses
\$350,000 in bitcoin ATM scam



Fraud Talk Podcast

Filling Your Anti-Fraud Toolbox - Tod McDonald - Garth Leonard - Fraud Talk - Episode 121

Washington State's Largest Ponzi Scheme was the catalyst for Tod McDonald, CPA to start his company and push for innovation in financial e-discovery. Years later, he and Garth Leonard, CFE, from Valid8 Financial, join ACFE Community Manager Rihonna Scoggins to explore the current resources at hand to combat fraud and how fraud examiners can assess what tools are the right fit for them in this evolving landscape.

<https://acfe.podbean.com/e/filling-your-anti-fraud-toolbox-tod-mcdonald-garth-leonard-fraud-talk-episode-121/>

UPCOMING EVENTS

LOCAL:

Lansing Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiner's Member Appreciation Picnic and Get Together

This catered event is open to all current members

August 17, 2022

5:30 -7:30pm

Sharp Park Shelter in Delta Township and Zoom (check your email for the meeting link)

RSVP by August 11, 2022 to: president@lansingacfe.com



Lansing Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiner's Annual Meeting

August 24, 2022

9:30 – 10:30 via Zoom

All chapter members are encouraged to attend!

If you are interested in attending the annual meeting, **please send an invitation request to president@lansingacfe.com by 5:00 PM on August 19, 2022**, so you can be included on the distribution list for the agenda and Zoom link.

Lansing Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiner 2022 Elections

Nominations due July 29, 2022

Each year, the Lansing Chapter of the ACFE seeks dedicated, energetic, and enthusiastic members to become volunteer leaders as Board members and Officers. If you are such a member (or know someone who qualifies), now is the time to consider becoming a candidate (or nominating someone) for a seat on the Board.

This year, there are four (4) director positions open for nomination, each with a two (2) year term. Anyone interested in serving on the board or nominating someone to serve on the board, please email president@lansingacfe.com by July 31, 2022.

To be eligible to serve, a candidate must be a member of the Lansing Chapter of the ACFE in good standing. Please note that under the Chapter's Bylaws, associate members may serve in director and in officer positions, but a certification as a fraud examiner by the ACFE is required for the position of President. Elections will occur by survey monkey between Monday, August 22nd and Friday, August 31st (link will be sent separately). The 2022-2024 terms will commence Thursday, September 1, 2022).

Each nomination must include the nominee's name, contact information, and a brief bio. Please send nominations to president@lansingacfe.com and put "2022 Elections" in the subject line. The deadline for receipt of nominations is Friday, July 29, 2022.

ACFE South Florida Chapter #11 presents *Asset Tracing: Finding the Truth Behind the Numbers*

Webinar (Free for ACFE South Florida Chapter Members / \$25 Non-Chapter Member)

September 22, 2022

12:00 – 1:30 pm

Learn more: <https://acfesouthflorida.org/event-4829232> and see poster below!

The Twin Cities and Georgia ACFE Chapters present a seminar to discuss the psychology of a fraudster, the importance of data in healthcare, and cognitive biases to set the stage for the "Bad Blood" story

Zoom Seminar

November 9, 2022 (first early bird pricing ends July 31st)

11:00 – 4:15 pm

When registering, LACFE Members should select the Other ACFE Chapter (or other participating organization) Member Ticket and enter the name of their Chapter or participating organization.

Learn more: <https://twincitiescfe.org/meetinginfo.php?id=63&ts=1656693218> and see poster below!

NATIONAL:

ACFE

Building Your Fraud Examination Practice

Virtual

September 21, 2022 (early registration ends August 22nd)

9:00 am

Learn more: <https://www.acfe.com/training-events-and-products/all-events/calendar-of-events/event-detail-page?s=Building-Your-Fraud-Examination-Practice-0922>

ACFE

Asset Fraud Prevention and Detection

Virtual

October 4, 2022 (early registration ends September 5th)

9:00 am

Learn more: <https://www.acfe.com/training-events-and-products/all-events/calendar-of-events/event-detail-page?s=Asset-Fraud-Prevention-Detection-1022Virt-AFPD>

If you have an event that you would like posted in our newsletter or if you wish to share an article, please contact Jennifer Ostwald at jenny1661@hotmail.com

**YOU'RE
INVITED!**

to the

LACFE Member Appreciation Picnic

Join us for food, drinks, and networking!

When: Wednesday, August 17

Time: 5:30 -7:30pm

Where: Sharp Park Shelter (Delta Township)
1401 Elmwood Rd, Lansing, MI 48917

Dinner & soft drinks will be provided.

CATERING BY QDOBA

Alcohol is permitted in the park, feel free to bring your own beverage!

RSVP by August 11, 2022 to:
president@lansingacfe.com

ASSET TRACING

FINDING THE TRUTH BEHIND THE NUMBERS
FOCUS - Estate and Trust Matters and Fiduciary Fraud

SEPTEMBER 22, 2022
12:00pm - 1:30pm



FEATURED SPEAKER:

BRANDI
STEINBERG

IAG Forensics
& Valuation

Brandi Steinberg, CPA, CFE is a forensic manager at IAG Forensics & Valuation. She has over 10 years of experience as a tax preparer, auditor, controller, and forensic accountant. She specializes in family law, estate and trust litigation, business valuations, and complex financial analyses. She is also Vice President of the Georgia Chapter of the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners.



Reserve your spot today!

<http://southfloridaacfe.org/event-4829232>



1.5 CPE Credits

FREE

ACFE South Florida
chapter members

\$25

for non-members

VIRTUAL EVENT

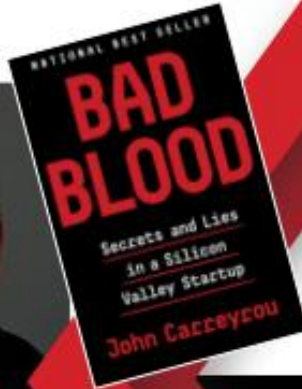




Association of Certified Fraud Examiners

TWIN CITIES AND GEORGIA CHAPTERS

Present:



NOVEMBER 9TH

DATE: November 9, 2022
FROM 11:00AM - 4:15PM CST
(5.25 CPE credits)

SPONSORS:

GOLD SPONSOR:



SILVER SPONSORS:



KEYNOTE SPEAKER:

● **John Carreyrou**
– Elizabeth Holmes Case

- **John Gill** – Psychology Mindset of a fraudster
- **Rebecca Mendoza** – It's All About the Data
- **Mary Breslin** – Cognitive biases

PRICES:

EARLY BIRD TIER ONE:

July 1st-July 31st
Members = \$75 | Non-Members = \$100

EARLY BIRD TIER TWO:

August 1st-August 31st
Members = \$100 | Non-Members = \$125

REGULAR PRICING:

September 1st -November 4th
Members = \$125 | Non-Members = \$150

Register Now!

at Twin Cities Chapter of the ACFE - Home Page
<https://twincitiescfe.org>

For more information on this speaker please visit <https://prhspeakers.com>



Sowing the Seeds of Success

July 05, 2022

Bruce Dorris, J.D., CFE, CPA

<https://acfeinsights.squarespace.com/acfe-insights/2022/7/5/emt9r9pze27z8pwxizgjlyzj8dc8zo>

“Corruption exists everywhere,” says Tony Kwok, the former deputy commissioner of the Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC), Hong Kong’s ace anti-graft agency. He’s not only right, but sadly corruption remains a major problem. It ranks as the most common occupational fraud scheme on every continent on the globe, according to ACFE’s Occupational Fraud 2022: A Report to the Nations. And the percentage of cases involving corruption is on the rise, jumping from 33% in 2012 to 50% in 2022, the report shows. (See [ACFE.com/RTTN](https://www.acfe.com/RTTN).)

It’s against that backdrop that the ACFE, at the 33rd Annual ACFE Global Fraud Conference, presented Kwok with this year’s Cressey Award, which it bestows annually for a lifetime of achievement in the detection and deterrence of fraud. Kwok watched corruption play out firsthand in his native Hong Kong and then spent his career and retirement fighting it.

Before the ICAC cleaned up the city, Hong Kong had a long history of corruption, and one that Kwok witnessed growing up. He soon learned about the serious ramifications of fraud and corruption, and that experience inspired him to pursue high ethical standards and join the ICAC as a junior investigator in the mid-1970s.

In this issue’s cover story, Kwok describes the “sense of mission” at the ICAC, which defeated pervasive fraud in the private and government sectors to make Hong Kong one of the least corrupt places on the planet. That unusual feat has made the anti-corruption agency a model to emulate. The ICAC’s three-pronged approach of deterrence, prevention and education may sound familiar as the underpinnings of a solid fraud risk management plan. But the ICAC came up with the idea long before it became a common concept.

Since retiring, Kwok has traveled throughout the world sharing his expertise to help countries combat corruption. Some have enjoyed a measure of success, but eliminating graft is often an uphill battle. As CFEs know all too well, we can face strong headwinds when we wish to develop, establish and enforce anti-fraud measures at organizations, whether it’s in the private or public sectors. Kwok advises fraud fighters that a strong political will is the primary ingredient in any battle against corruption. And while that’s lacking in many countries, he remains optimistic.

That positive outlook can be difficult to maintain amid reports of recurrent fraud around the world. But changing perceptions takes time. As CFEs, we can effectively pursue our mission of reducing fraud worldwide by educating others about the value of our work and the difference it can make. Not every employee needs to be a CFE, but they should be aware of fraud, how it happens, what to look for and how to report it. Through his advisory and education work, Kwok says he’s sown the seeds for future generations of fraud fighters to succeed. It’s that kind of educational work that will help us to effectively eliminate fraud and grow our much-needed profession.

INFORMATION AT HER FINGERTIPS

July 6, 2022

<https://fraudoftheday.com/tax-refund-fraud/information-at-her-fingertips/>

No one likes a fraudster, but ones who use the identities of the disabled really move into the lowest category of despicable.

Tamara Manuel, of Vallejo CA was sentenced, on June 16th, 2022, for carrying out a fraudulent scheme that involved stealing the identities of severely disabled individuals to obtain federal tax refunds. She carried out this scheme while working at Sonoma Development Center, a large state-run facility for the mentally disabled in Eldridge, CA.

The information needed for Manuel to start up the fraudulent returns was readily available at Manuel's fingertips. In her role, Manuel had access to SDC patients' personal identification information including Social Security Numbers and birthdates. Starting in 2011, Manuel misappropriated patients' identities and filed tax returns in their names, then invented their employment status, wages, withholding and dependents to get refunds, from the Internal Revenue Service.

In one such example, provided in court, Manuel filed a return in the name of a patient she described as a forklift truck driver who made more than \$23,000 a year, had a dependent and was owed a child tax credit. In fact, the man had no income, was severely disabled with conditions that included autism, bipolar disorder and epilepsy, and required 24-hour care. Prosecutors said she filed similar returns for other patients who suffered from conditions that included blindness in both eyes, infantile cerebral palsy and the brain disease encephalopathy.

Manuel didn't just limit the fraudulent returns to patients of SDC. She also filed hers and her son's federal tax returns to include fabricated dependent information falsely claiming they each had dependents. Those "dependents" consisted of not only patients from SDC but their own relatives. Pretty sure this won't get Tamara Manuel awarded Mom of The Year! It will be up to Junior if he wants to mail her a Mother's Day Card over the next few years, but he won't be able to take her out for brunch. Tamara Manuel will be the spending 39 months in jail.

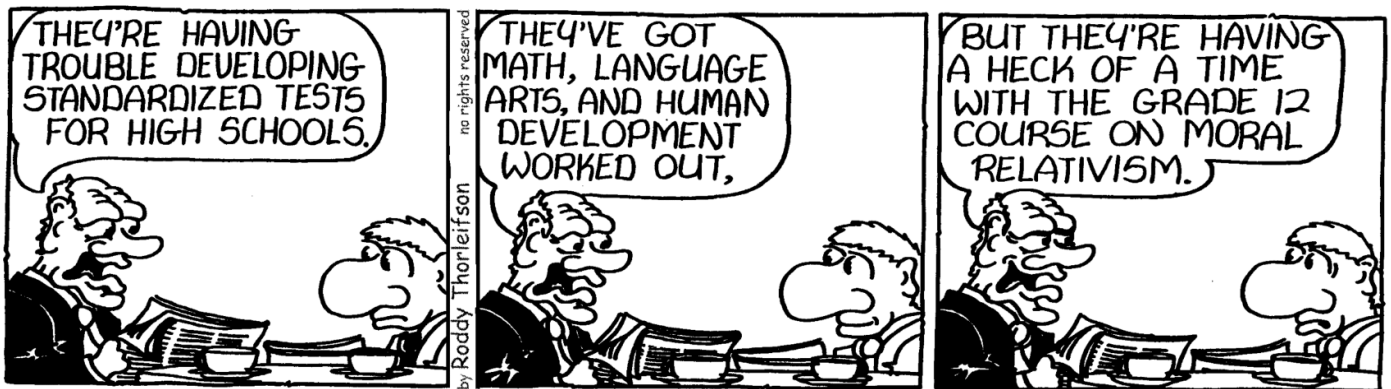
A special thanks to the IRS. While constantly working to decipher fraudulent and truthful tax returns, they were able to protect those who were not capable of realizing their identity had been stolen.

Today's "Fraud of the Day" is based on an article, posted by CBS News, on June 16, 2022

VALLEJO WOMAN SENTENCED FOR ID THEFT OF DISABLED VICTIMS TO OBTAIN TAX REFUNDS

A judge sentenced Vallejo resident Tamara Manuel Thursday to more than three years in prison for stealing the identities of severely disabled persons in order to get federal tax refunds.

U.S Attorney for the Eastern District of California Phillip Talbert said in a press statement that Manuel carried out the scheme while working at Sonoma Development Center (SDC), a large, state-run facility serving people with developmental disabilities.



Reprinted with permission from MooseLakeCartoons

Video of the Month

[I-Team: Police investigate alleged theft ring at Las Vegas school - YouTube](#)

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department is investigating an alleged theft ring involving staff members at a Las Vegas school after nearly \$154,000 was stolen from a program aimed to help students.



'Nearly impossible to trace' - Michigan couple loses \$350,000 in bitcoin ATM scam

WILX News 10 – July 27, 2022

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/crime/e2-80-98nearly-impossible-to-trace-e2-80-99-michigan-couple-loses-24350000-in-bitcoin-atm-scam/ar-AA102k4M>

TRAVERSE CITY, Mich. (WILX) - Detectives at a Michigan sheriff's office say a new fraud report comes across their desks every day, but the most recent one is the largest they have seen when it comes to money lost. More than a third of a million dollars was taken from an elderly Michigan couple.

Detectives at the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Office said an elderly Grand Traverse County couple is out \$350,000 in a fraud case they described as "nearly impossible to trace."

Lt. Brandon Brinks worked on the case for the Grand Traverse Sheriff's Department.

Read: Michigan Attorney General announces new tool for combatting elder abuse

"It's frustrating to lose money, but it's also when you see people taken advantage of it's difficult to watch," Brinks said.

He added that \$350,000 is the highest amount he's ever seen. He says the couple made multiple withdraws from different banks in order to transfer money to coin flip, an ATM that used bitcoin.

"We're getting money sent through Western Union wires and Green Dot cards and Walmart gift cards," Brinks said. "There's just there's no end to the way that people find to have money transferred once you withdraw it from your bank."

As the investigation continues, detectives have not been able to figure out how the physical cash was able to be transferred through coin flip.

"Because of the lack of documentation, the lack of paperwork that we have, there's really no way for us to trace that money once it's gone," Brinks said. "And currently they are out that money."

Brinks says it all started with an alert on the couples computer with a message to call a number.

"What they believed was Apple support, ended up not being Apple support," Brinks said. "It was a unknown person from an unknown place."

Lieutenant Brinks says, to prevent being scammed, you should always call a business directly from a number listed on their website.

One of the biggest indicators that something is a scam is if they try to prevent the caller from hanging up and calling back.

Brinks said, “If you say okay, well let me check into this, I’ll call you back, and they say ‘don’t hang up with me.’ It’s a scam.”

Related video:

[SCAM ALERT: Bitcoin and call forwarding scams rolled into one? | Watch \(msn.com\)](#)

Quotes of the Month

“Those who grant sympathy to guilt, grant none to innocence.”

— Ayn Rand

Was a Russian-born American writer and philosopher

“We should challenge the relativism that tells us there is no right or wrong, when every instinct of our mind knows it is not so, and is a mere excuse to allow us to indulge in what we believe we can get away with. A world without values quickly becomes a world without value.”

— Jonathan Sacks

Was an English Orthodox rabbi, philosopher, theologian, and author