



Welcome to the Greater Atlanta ACAMS Chapter newsletter. The Atlanta Chapter of ACAMS launched in June 2011 and was formed to advance the professional knowledge, skills, and experience of anti-money laundering professionals in the region. If you are interested in joining the chapter, please [click here](#).

Upcoming Training:

ACAMS Webinars: Check upcoming webinars at ACAMS.org

ACAMS New York Virtual Conference: June 9, 2021 (6 ACAMS Credits) Virtual New York – registration at ACAMS.org

ACAMS Las Vegas Conference: Sep. 27-29, 2021 (15 ACAMS credits), Aria Resort & Casino + Virtual – ACAMS.org

Next ACAMS Atlanta Chapter meeting: Tentative In-person Meeting – Date: August 26th, 2021

CELEBRATING THE ATLANTA ACAMS CHAPTER TENTH ANNIVERSARY

Atlanta and the "deep south" in general needed to raise its financial services "awareness" of a very serious problem. Around 2007 "Strike Force" agents fighting organized crime money laundering were concerned that Metro Atlanta had become notorious as a "hub" for the cartels. The flow of cartel drug dollars through Atlanta was astounding. Our Strike Force hauled in several million dollars in cartel currency by 2010. We realized this was just a drop in the bucket. We wanted to motivate a vigilant community of "front-line AML" professionals. Charlotte had recently established a chapter of ACAMS, promoting networking, training, and professional recognition. Atlanta as the commercial heart of the southeast needed a leading ACAMS chapter. The idea was to organize Georgia and to include interested folks in Alabama and Tennessee. ACAMS Miami was contacted for advice on the job of organizing our "Atlanta Area" chapter. Charlotte's chapter president came to town to advise us too. In early 2011, we outlined a chapter organization and obtained our ACAMS chapter approval. We started with an initial executive board of ten dedicated AML professionals. We held our first chapter executive board meeting in August 2011. Our chapter grew slowly over the first few years, holding quarterly meetings with presentations mainly from our membership and supportive firms. Early meetings were usually in conference facilities of financial services related law offices and financial investigative firms. In 2014, membership began to increase rapidly as we began to do networking and training at Ansley Golf Club, which became our home venue around 2014.

Over this last decade we have benefited greatly from all the dedication and talent each successive member of the ten-member executive board has contributed. They are too numerous to mention here, but many will be recognized in future newsletters and website recognitions.

Celebrating our chapter's first decade is really all about celebrating all our chapter members as the fine professionals who made this chapter possible. Atlanta ACAMS Chapter has a very bright future and will continue to move the AML profession forward in our fight against serious crime and terrorism.

- John Carl Schmarkey, Jr., CAMS, CFE, LPI, Special Agent (ret.)
Forensic Partners, LLC - Atlanta, Georgia, USA



RECOGNITION

Atlanta ACAMS Chapter is proud to announce we are honoring a distinguished professional member. Mr. David Sawyer is being presented our highest honor, the meritorious service award. David contributed many years of service to the Atlanta Chapter. David served most recently as Co- Chairman of the Executive Board. David's hallmark is energy and innovative ideas. In 2013, David became a board member and program director, managing events and professional training for several years. David was instrumental in establishing Ansley Golf Club as our chapter's home for events, networking, and training which we have all enjoyed.



David T. Sawyer
CPA.CFF.CITP, CIA, CFE, CAMS, PI
PDE #049881

As a forensic accountant and financial crimes investigator for civil litigation and criminal prosecution, David Sawyer has served as consulting or testifying expert in more than 200 investigations involving fraud, corruption, financial damages, and a variety of other legal disputes. He has provided expert witness testimony in more than two dozen of those matters. David served a key role in developing software designed as an early warning system to detect red flags of fraud, waste, abuse, and white-collar crime. He has also worked as an advisor on the global initiative to combat, prevent and detect multi-national economic and military espionage, as well as the proliferation of WMD, terrorist financing and money laundering.



Are You Aware of the ACAMS Resource?

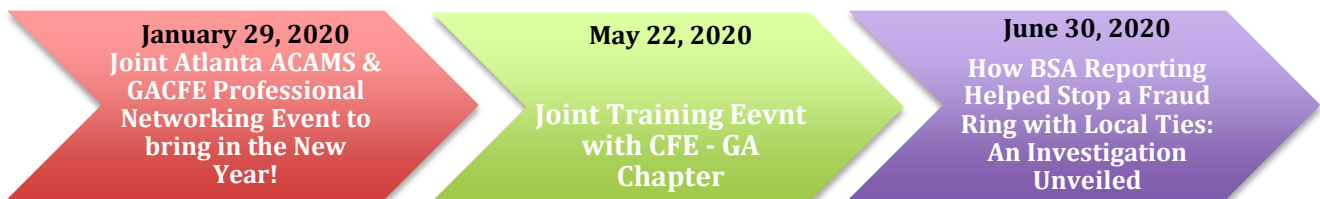
Improve Your AML Controls with ACAMS' Resources - ACAMS' mission to advance the knowledge and skills of the AML and financial compliance community is anchored in our information resources. Our membership's commitment and contributions to the Association is paramount to our education efforts, whether it is an annual AML survey, breaking compliance news, instructional white paper or AML training webinar. Visit the [ACAMS' Resources](#) page for newsletters, current topics, and current discussions.

Spotlight chapter member of the month

Future versions of the newsletter will feature a spotlight ACAMS Atlanta Chapter member of the month. This section of the newsletter will contain a picture and brief bio/submission for member of the month. Do you have a chapter member you would like to nominate? Send your votes to Chapters@acams.org (include Atlanta Chapter newsletter response in the subject line of your email)



2020 Events Highlights





ACAMS Atlanta Chapter Members:

- Are you a member? Not yet? If you are interested in joining the chapter, please [click here](#).
 - Chapter membership offers an array of benefits for your professional career.
 - Chapter events provide networking opportunities within AML and other related industries.
 - Chapter membership is an excellent resource to stay up to date on current events in the industry.
 - CAMS credits can be earned at Atlanta Chapter events.
 - Chapter membership provides a discount at quarterly events.
 - Chapter membership and events provide access to and information about vendors within the industry.

- **Reminder:** Is your membership active? Log into your ACAMS account and click the join chapter link for renewal.

- Do you have any **suggestions**? Please contact us at Chapters@acams.org (include Atlanta Chapter newsletter response in the subject line of your email)
 - Topics and/or speakers for future events
 - Nominations for spotlight chapter member of the month (must include contact information for the individual you are submitting)
 - Newsletter content suggestions
 - Other suggestions

ACAMS Atlanta Chapter Board Members: ACAMS Atlanta Chapter Board Members:
Ed Edmister, CAMS: Chair | Thomas Williams, CRCM, CCBIA, ACT Specialist: Co-Chair | William Leopold, CAMS, CFE:
Co-Membership | Fernanda Medina, CAMS: Communications Director | Amber Messick, CAMS: Co-Communications
Director | David Dinkins, CAMS, CFE: Treasurer | John Schmarkey, CAMS, CFE, LPI: Founder | Courtenay Dillard,
CAMS, CFE: Secretary | Blake Walker, CAMS: Co-Secretary | Daniel Fields, CAMS: Programming Director |