



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:**

**Various ACAMS Webinars:** Check upcoming webinars at [ACAMS.org](https://www.acams.org)

**ACAMS Webinar:** February 28, 2022 (1 ACAMS Credit) Analyzing Cultural Differences in Naming Conventions to Strengthen KYC/CDD Oversight – registration at [ACAMS.org](https://www.acams.org)

**ACAMS Global Sanctions Space Summit:** February 2-3, 2022 (13 ACAMS Credit), Online at [ACAMS.org](https://www.acams.org)

**ACAMS Atlanta Chapter Board Member Summit (Board Members Only):** February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 12-4pm at InComm Columbus Office

**Next ACAMS Atlanta Chapter meeting:** In-person Meeting – Tentative

**Membership Benefits from a Chapter Member's Perspective**

My experience with the Atlanta Chapter has been very welcoming and enlightening. Since joining and going to events I have networked with people I would have never connected with otherwise and learned of career paths I would've never thought to pursue. I have seen firsthand how joining a local chapter can open doors to endless career possibilities. The Atlanta Chapter has featured thought provoking content, such as the event, ACAMS Atlanta Chapter Lunch & Learn: Cannabis & Financial Institutions. It was interesting to hear the challenges financial institutions face while banking cannabis companies and the future of the cannabis industry.

Since the networking event I decided to participate more in the chapter and become part of the newsletter committee. It has been great working with the team and I have met people from all over the Atlanta area from different financial institutions. I know joining the chapter and taking a more active role will open many doors for me in the future. If you would like to join a committee/board or would like to refer a colleague for membership, please go to [chapters@acams.org](mailto:chapters@acams.org).

**Cassandra O'Neill, CAMS, CFE**  
**Incomm Payments, BSA/AML Compliance Supervisor**  
**ACAMS Atlanta Chapter Newsletter Committee Member**



## Are You Aware of the ACAMS Resource?

### Featured Article:

**Will AML Professionals Participate in Managing ESG Risk** – The topic of environmental, social and governance (ESG) risk will likely arise, especially as it pertains to financial institutions. This article will explain ESG risk, why financial institutions are paying attention to it and the role that an anti-money laundering (AML) professional might play in helping a financial institution manage ESG risk. Visit the [ACAMS.org](https://www.acams.org) page to access the full article.

### Featured Article:

**Human Trafficking: The Link to Child Sexual Exploitation** – Human trafficking is notably one of the most horrendous crimes that financial crime professionals must consider when monitoring suspicious activity within their anti-money laundering (AML) program. While many financial institutions recognize human trafficking as a growing concern within their communities, some continue to focus on the cross-border aspect of this crime. Financial institutions and AML professionals are the first line of defense against this type of crime. They must stay diligent in detecting and reporting these crimes to help save our children from these predators. Visit the [ACAMS.org](https://www.acams.org) page to access the full article.

### 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](mailto:Chapters@acams.org) (include Atlanta Chapter newsletter response in the subject line of your email)





**IT IS OUR PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE OUR NEW TREASURER  
FOR THE ATLANTA ACAMS CHAPTER**

**Howard Williams, CAMS**

Howard Williams, CAMS was our Spotlight Chapter member of the month in July 2021. Howard brings a wealth of industry knowledge to the board and fellow board members look forward to serving the chapter with Howard this term. Howard served in the U.S. Army for 10 years in the field of intelligence in support of special operations units to include the Joint Interagency Terrorism Task Force and Counter-IED (Improvised Explosive Device) Targeting Program.

In addition to his background in intelligence, Williams was also the team leader of Personal Security Detachment with the responsibility of protecting members of the government in some of the world's most hostile areas. Following his work for the government, he served in several critical roles in major financial institutions, including Senior KYC analyst and Transactions Monitoring Manager. Williams has over 6 years of AML experience that includes working with correspondent banks, federal and state regulators, compliance training, sanctions risk assessments, AML investigation Lookbacks and system vendors.

Williams is currently the BSA/AML Compliance Monitoring Manager with Incomm Payments. In his role, he oversees the day-to-day operations of a team whose responsibilities include monitoring for high-risk activity and oversees policy implementation to ensure strong management of alerts and SAR filings.



**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](mailto: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 | Howard Williams, CAMS: Treasurer | John Schmarkey, CAMS, CFE, LPI: Founder | Courtenay Dillard, CAMS,  
CFE: Secretary | Blake Walker, CAMS: Co-Secretary | Daniel Fields, CAMS: Programming Director |