

ACAMS Northern California Chapter Annual Newsletter

January 2016

2015 Learning Event Highlights

The Northern California ACAMS Chapter is dedicated to delivering high quality, relevant training events to its members. The Chapter held five learning events in 2015 as well as launching the Sacramento

monitoring, validation and tuning of AML models.

In June, we had our first Sacramento Extension learning event. Speaker retired Special Agent Rick Adams of the IRS Criminal Investigations focused

Fin/Tech Demos and Regulatory Updates.

In September, the Chapter hosted a learning event focused on De-Risking, sponsored by Thomson Reuters. Jim Richards, EVP and BSA Officer for Wells Fargo was the guest speaker. He discussed the current trend many banks are taking in de-risking the "riskiest" types of customers, the systemic effects of de-risking and alternative options to de-risking such as strategies for pricing for risk.

In November, the Chapter held its year end learning event and holiday party, sponsored by Accuity. Speakers from the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of International Trade, Commercial Targeting and Enforcement as well as a speaker from Accuity discussed trade based money laundering. After the presentation, attendees stayed for our holiday party where non-perishable food items were gathered for a food drive and raffle prizes were drawn.

Copies of some of the presentations can be found on our [Chapter site](#).



Top Left: A well-attended half-day learning event: Emerging Payment Technologies July 2015 Top Right: The De-Risking Learning Event September 2015. Bottom: Some of the raffle prize winners at the year-end holiday party December 2015.



Extension.

For our first learning event of the year in February, speakers from Crowe Horwath talked about the key components of effective model tuning and validation. They discussed AML model risk management trends and examiner expectations as well as best practices and techniques for performance

on the topic of the marijuana industry, the green triangle and how to identify those types of businesses.

In July, the Chapter held its third annual half day learning event focusing on Emerging Payment Technologies. Three separate panels covered: Building Compliance Programs for Emerging Payments,

Chapter Membership



The ACAMS Northern California Chapter has approximately 300 members representing banks, money services businesses and government, including Wells Fargo, First Republic Bank, Bank of the West, CA DBO and Square. The Chapter increased by 117% in membership since the beginning of 2015. This was a result of the creation of some “enterprise memberships” in 2015. Members attend learning events to obtain CAMS credits, however, approximately 28% of our learning event attendees are non-members. We encourage non-members to join to increase the value they receive from free learning events and professional networking opportunities. *Visit our [website](#) for more information.*

At this year’s ACAMS Conference in Las Vegas, the Northern California Chapter received the 2015 Chapter of the Year Award. The Chapter was launched in 2010 and has steadily increased its membership making us the third largest U.S. Chapter. More importantly, we were among the leaders in total number of learning and networking events, event attendance, content diversity and we expanded our geographic presence beyond San Francisco to include Oakland, East Bay, Silicon Valley, and Sacramento. **Thank you** to all of our members, speakers and event attendees as everyone contributed to this great achievement. We look forward to continuing to deliver award-winning programming and bringing excellent value for your membership.

Tentative 2016 Events Topics

The Chapter will continue to host social and learning events throughout the year in both the Bay Area as well as the Sacramento area. Tentative topics for our 2016 Learning Events include:

- Terrorist Financing
- Casino/Gaming
- Cybersecurity
- Emerging Payments (4th annual half-day)
- Know Your Market
- Alternative Investments
- Operational AML
- FCPA/Vendor Risk Management/OFAC

If you have suggestions for specific events/topics you would like to see, please send us a note: norcalacams@gmail.com

A Special “Thank You” to all our 2015 speakers and sponsors: Crowe Horwath, Rick Adams, Silicon Valley Bank, SEED, AliPay, WePay, USForex, Sift Science, Identity Mind, Wells Fargo, Thomson Reuters, Accuity, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Office of International Trade, Commercial Targeting and Enforcement

Check out our LinkedIn group page for Chapter updates!

Our Board Members: Lisa Lechner (Co-Chair), Brian Stoeckert (Co-Chair), Faranak Firozan (Secretary), Steve Christie (Treasurer), Amanda Low (Communications Director), Bob Kenny (Membership Director), Arjun Kalra (Programming Director), Ryan Hodge (Co-Programming Events Director), Colleen Kearns (Co-Programming Speakers Director), Jana Hatten (Chapter Extension Director)