



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 Hollywood Conference: May 9-11, 2023, Hollywood, FL + Virtual (17 ACAMS Credits), Be the Solution at [ACAMS.org](https://www.acams.org)

ACAMS Europe Conference: May 23-24, 2023, Dublin, Ireland (23 ACAMS Credits), Dealing with Disruption at [ACAMS.org](https://www.acams.org)

Next ACAMS Atlanta Chapter Lunch & Learn: May 18, 2023, 11a to 2p (2 ACAMS Credits), \$35 per attendee, Ansley Golf Club, Atlanta, GA.

Did You See This?



FinCEN Finalizes Unprecedented Penalty Against Trust Company*

The U.S. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network for the first time penalized a trust company Wednesday, fining Kingdom Trust of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, \$1.5 million for failing to report hundreds of suspicious transactions from February 2016 to March 2021..... Visit [ACAMS Moneylaundering.com](https://www.acams.org/moneylaundering.com)

FinCEN Reviewing, Revamping BSA Database Security Measures*

The U.S. Financial Crimes Enforcement Network is strengthening the controls that govern access to records filed pursuant to the Bank Secrecy Act after Treasury's Office of the Inspector General, or OIG, raised concerns over data security, the bureau's acting director said Thursday. An audit conducted by the OIG found that FinCEN does not take steps to verify that federal investigators and hundreds of other authorized parties..... Visit [ACAMS Moneylaundering.com](https://www.acams.org/moneylaundering.com)

US Treasury Sanctions Individuals, Companies Linked to Cartel Timeshare Fraud Network*

The U.S. Treasury Department announced new sanctions targeting a fugitive from a U.S. drug trafficking charge, six other individuals, and 19 Mexican companies that are linked to timeshare fraud schemes led by the Cartel de Jalisco Nueva Generacion (CJNG)..... Visit [ACAMS Moneylaundering.com](https://www.acams.org/moneylaundering.com)

*Log in required



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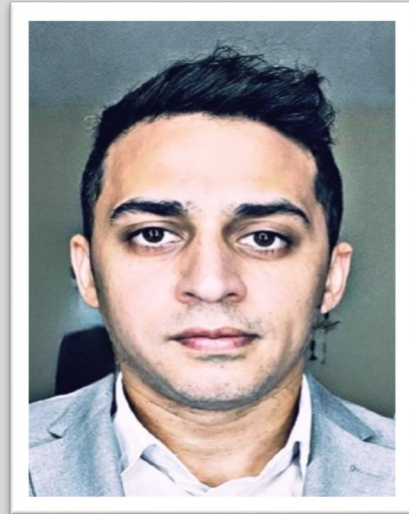


ATLANTA CHAPTER SPOTLIGHT MEMBER OF THE MONTH

John Marrero, CAMS

John is currently a Global Financial Crimes –Wealth Management/Bank EDD Professional at Morgan Stanley in Alpharetta, GA.

John has attained valuable knowledge and experience of the Bank Secrecy Act and USA Patriot Act pertaining to regulatory requirements and regulations over financial products through his various AML roles, as well as project engagements, at First IC Bank, Truist, Deutsche Bank, FDIC, and Brightwell Payments, Inc. He has conducted research and investigative approaches pertaining to unusual transaction activity and contributed in internal compliance audits and federal/state audits concerning Customer Identification Program (CIP), Customer Due Diligence/Enhanced Due Diligence (CDD/EDD), loan review processes with the understanding of the Fair Lending regulations, proper Account Opening/ Proper Disclosures requirements, appropriate request for information collection/ documentation (RFI) documentation, CAMELS Ratings, suspicious activity reporting, and internal/external audit requirements within various organizations.



He is a true supporter to relationship building working alongside many professionals in the anti-financial crimes industry ranging from wealth management, community banking, correspondent banking, commercial banking, fintech, and the government sector.

John obtained his Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist (CAMS) certification and holds a bachelor's from the University of North Georgia in Dahlonega. Outside his professional career he enjoys the company of his family Shelby and their children Avery, Madison, and Luna.



We Want Your Feedback!

We want your feedback on topics and/or speakers for future lunch/learn events and networking events. We also want to know what type of content you like to see in the newsletters, ACAMS events, and on the ACAMS website. Please send your suggestions to chapters@acams.org.

Are You Aware of the ACAMS Resource?

Featured Article:

FinCEN's Fraud Policies – The article titled “FinCEN’s AML and Terrorist Financing Priorities: An Introduction,”¹ featured in the *ACAMS Today* 12th Law Enforcement Edition, shared general thoughts, basic definitions, and practical examples on each of the national anti-money laundering (AML) priorities. This article, the sixth of the series, will discuss fraud in greater detail.

As stated in the introductory article, fraud is characterized by intentional actions that are deceptive in nature and designed to provide the fraudster with undue advantages and financial gains.... For more details visit ACAMSToday.org to access the full article.

Featured Article:

The Rise of Real Estate Money Laundering – The growth of real estate money laundering has been prevalent throughout the past 15 years as the U.S. continues to see ever-changing criminal strategies that facilitate illicit funds to move through the financial system with real estate purchases. As many bank compliance professionals can attest, the regulatory environment has made significant strides to establish strong institutional controls over the movement of funds and bank-facilitated transactions.

Despite rigorous controls in place to safeguard against this activity, money launderers continue their efforts to evade them..... Visit the ACAMSToday.org page to access the full article.

• Log in may be required

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)





ACAMS Atlanta Chapter Members:

• **Atlanta Chapter Open Board Position – Co Secretary**

The Atlanta chapter is seeking a Co-Secretary for our Atlanta ACAMS Chapter board. In the Co-Secretary position, you would be responsible for tasks such as organizing monthly meetings, creating agenda's, recording, and distributing meeting minutes and attendance of meetings, and additional tasks upon request to network and further develop chapter membership.

If you have an interest in this role, please reach out to Chapters@acams.org, with the title Atlanta ACAMS Chapter Board Interest. Please include your contact information, a brief description of your professional background, CAMS certification status and ACAMS membership status, and your reason as to why you are interested and believe you would be a good candidate for this position on the board.

• **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:

Ed Edmister, CAMS: Chair | Thomas Williams, CRCM, CCBIA, ACT Specialist: Co-Chair | William Leopold, CAMS, CFE: Co-Membership | Amber Messick, CAMS: Communications Director | Aline Vooijs, CAMS: Co-Communications Director | Katrin Gancheva, CFE: Treasurer | John Schmarkey, CAMS, CFE, LPI: Founder | Blake Walker, CAMS: Secretary | Daniel Fields, CAMS: Programming Director | Beau Buckler: Membership Director