

Chapter Website:

[www.acfe-pgh.org](http://www.acfe-pgh.org)

**Greater Pittsburgh Area Chapter**

May 2021

Newsletter



Greater Pittsburgh Chapter

# Greater Pittsburgh Chapter

**May 12, 2021 – ACFE Greater Pittsburgh Area Chapter presents – Virtual Meeting**

**“Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Fraud”**

**Speaker: John DiLucente, Supervisory Special Agent – Financial Crimes Unit,  
Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General**

Location: Virtual Event (Zoom)

12:00 noon – 1:00 pm: Presentation

Please register [here](#).

**Registration deadline: May 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 pm**

Cost: Members & Associates of the Greater Pittsburgh Area Chapter: \$10  
All others: \$20

CPE: Qualifies for 1 credit hour of continuing professional education. Attendance certificates will be emailed after the event.

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## **May 12, 2021 – ACFE Greater Pittsburgh Area Chapter presents – Virtual Meeting**

### **“Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Fraud”**

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Pennsylvania Office of Attorney General**

From the Pennsylvania Office of Unemployment Compensation website (<https://www.uc.pa.gov/Fraud/Pages/default.aspx>): Scammers behind Pandemic Unemployment Assistance fraud appear to be using Social Security numbers and other personally identifiable information to apply for and receive PUA benefits. In many situations, the victims are unaware that their personal information has been compromised. Warning signs of a possible COVID-19 scam include for workers, receiving any type of correspondence that you filed an unemployment claim when you did not file a claim for benefits, and for employers, a claim being filed for one or more of your employees who are still working.

John DiLucente is a Supervisory Special Agent of the Financial Crimes and Public Corruption Units for the Pennsylvania Attorney General’s Office. He has been with the PA Office of Attorney General for two and a half years. Prior, John worked for the IRS for 31 years in the Criminal investigation division in Pittsburgh. He supervised the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) group for seven years. His investigations included tax fraud, money laundering, embezzlement, mortgage fraud, etc.

The PA Office of Attorney General Financial Crimes Unit investigates individuals and businesses suspected of criminal or other unlawful activity (e.g., fraud, embezzlement, breach of fiduciary duty, misapplication of entrusted funds or property, forgery or falsifying business records) principally through the examination and analysis of their financial records. The Public Corruption Unit investigates, assesses, charges, and prosecutes all manner of public corruption throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

**Please join us for this interesting and relevant presentation.**

**Register [here!](#)**

## **ACFE Global Fraud Conference**

The ACFE 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Global Fraud Conference will be a remote learning event on June 21-23, 2021. The Conference provides the opportunity for more than 30 CPE via live and on-demand sessions. The Conference is well-known to have high quality presentations and speakers, so the opportunity to participate is a great learning opportunity for all CFEs.

Keynote speakers include:

- Robert Herjavec - Cybersecurity Expert; Herjavec Group, CEO
- Thuli Madonsela - Professor, Stellenbosch University; Former Public Protector of South Africa
- Dan McCrum - Exposed Wirecard Scandal; Investigative Journalist, Financial Times
- Preet Bharara - Former U.S. Attorney, Southern District of New York; Host, Stay Tuned with Preet
- Kate Snow - Senior National Correspondent, NBC News; Anchor, NBC Nightly News Sunday

For more details and to register, visit: <https://www.fraudconference.com/>.

## Digital Forensics

The proliferation of technology presents new opportunities for fraudsters to commit and attempt to conceal fraudulent activity. The digital trail left behind allows fraud examiners to collect, analyze and interpret the evidence. Fraud examiners must be able to mine data to extract and identify patterns and relationships within structured and unstructured data. One of the places digital forensics experts are focusing their searches today is the world of social media, with a host of searchable metadata such as timestamps and geo location. Despite a fraudster's best efforts to cover their trail they can rarely escape their digital footprint. Fraudsters have also been known to attempt to hide incriminating evidence through encryption or masking the data with false file extensions, though computer forensics allow the entirety or a portion of altered or deleted files to be recovered. Metadata can uncover discrepancies or lead to discovery of fraudulent documents or a second set of books or data. The evidence necessary to connect the who, what, when, where and why of a fraud examination is increasingly contained in electronically stored information. Read the full article from The Fraud Examiner [here](#).



### **3 Pittsburgh Residents Accused in \$1M Fraud Scheme Targeting Pandemic Unemployment**

Three Pittsburgh residents face felony charges in connection with a scheme that defrauded Pennsylvania of nearly \$1 million worth of pandemic-related unemployment relief, according to charges filed by the state Attorney General's Office.

[Read More](#)

### **Pittsburgh Church Founder Sentenced for Labor Trafficking, Fraud Charges**

A Pittsburgh woman who founded her own church, recruited and abused women in it, then perpetrated a years-long fraud operating a fake travel agency will spend 12 years in prison. [Read More](#)

### **Moon Township Police Warn Residents Of Check Fraud And Mail Theft**

Moon Township Police say they have seen a surge in check fraud cases stemming from mail theft. [Read More](#)

### **Ex-Church Administrator Accused Of Embezzling \$1.2M Sentenced In Federal Court On Tax Fraud Charges**

A man accused of embezzling more than \$1.2 million from a church in Upper St. Clair was sentenced in federal court. [Read More](#)

### **Former Emergency Management Official at Pitt Charged with Selling Stolen PPE on eBay**

A former University of Pittsburgh employee has been indicted by a federal grand jury on a charge of Interstate Transportation of Stolen Property, Acting United States Attorney Stephen R. Kaufman announced. [Read More](#)

### **Pennsylvania Man Pleads Guilty to Fraud and Identity Theft Charges for his Role in Nationwide Gas Station Skimming Scheme**

Marlon Palacios, age 33, of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, pled guilty to participating in a conspiracy to commit access device fraud, as well as for committing aggravated identity theft, for taking part in a nationwide gas station skimming scheme that involved stealing the banking and personal information of residents of Upstate and Central New York who used the "pay at the pump" feature to make gasoline purchases.

[Read More](#)

### **3 Family Members Sentenced for Health Care Fraud Schemes Targeting Veterans**

Brothers Mehran David Kohanbash and Joseph Kohan, and their nephew, Nima Rodefshalom, have been sentenced for their roles in an elaborate fraud scheme that stole millions of dollars from health care systems across the United States. [Read More](#)

### **BBB Warns of Fake Websites Impersonating Government Travel & Security Services**

As vaccinations ramp up and more people are traveling, an urgent warning comes from the Better Business Bureau, saying some fraudulent websites are either impersonating government websites or are claiming to process your TSA PreCheck or Global Entry applications, only to instead access your personal information and money. [Read More](#)

## Connect on LinkedIn and Facebook

Did you know the ACFE Greater Pittsburgh Area Chapter has a LinkedIn account and Facebook page?  
Visit [ACFE Greater Pittsburgh LinkedIn Page](#) and [ACFE Greater Pittsburgh Facebook Page](#)

### Your Officers and Directors

President	Bernard Rafferty CFE, CPA
Vice President	Maria Huttner CPA, CIA, CFE
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Secretary	Katie Vance CFE
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Membership Director	Brett Fulesday CFE
Higher Education Director	Aaryn Hogue CPA, CFE, CFF
Director	Douglas Keklak CFE
Training Director	David Vanderaar CFE

### April Meeting Follow-Up

Thanks again to U.S. Department of Energy Office of Inspector General Special Agent Erik Halvorson for his interesting discussion on fraud analytics. He's provided the following list of recommended books:

- An Introduction to Statistical Learning With Applications in R by James, Witten, Hastie, Tibshirani
- Data Visualization by Andy Kirk
- Visualization Analysis and Design by Munzer
- Applied Predictive Analytics by Abbott
- Survey Methodology by Groves, Fowler, Couper, Lepkowski, Singer and Tourangeau

### About the ACFE

The ACFE is the world's largest anti-fraud organization and premier provider of anti-fraud training and education. Together with more than 85,000 members, the ACFE is reducing business fraud worldwide and inspiring public confidence in the integrity and objectivity within the profession. Visit [www.acfe.com](http://www.acfe.com) for more details.

### Upcoming Events

- [Wednesday, June 9, 2021 – Meeting TBD, Officer and Director Elections](#)

[Watch for more information on upcoming events!](#)