

Chapter Website:

www.acfe-pgh.org

Greater Pittsburgh Area Chapter

October 2026

Newsletter



Greater Pittsburgh Chapter

October 14, 2026 – ACFE Greater Pittsburgh Area Chapter presents – Virtual Meeting

“The Perfect Storm...Why the Cannabis Industry is Ripe for Fraud”

Speaker: Mitzi Keating, Partner, Founder, Cannabis Advisory Services, Citrin Cooperman

Location: Virtual Event (Zoom)

12:00 noon – 1:00 pm: Presentation

Please register [here](#).

Registration deadline: October 13th at 3:00 pm

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

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Call for Speakers!

We are looking for speakers to present for the 2026-2027 year. Do you know an engaging speaker who may be interested in delivering a presentation relevant to the ACFE membership? If so, please send name and contact information to Nick Leone at nleone@schneiderdowns.com and copy Bernie Rafferty at brafferty@gatewayengineers.com.

Our Sponsors:



October 14, 2026

ACFE Greater Pittsburgh Area Chapter presents - Virtual Meeting

“The Perfect Storm...Why the Cannabis Industry is Ripe for Fraud”

Speaker: Mitzi Keating, Partner, Founder, Cannabis Advisory Services, Citrin Cooperman

Fraud in the cannabis industry typically spans investor schemes, online consumer scams, and supply-chain or potency misrepresentations driven by a heavy reliance on cash and evolving regulations. Investor and securities fraud includes Ponzi and pump-and-dump schemes where fake operators hype micro-cap stocks or non-existent dispensary builds, and misappropriation through diverting capital raised for licenses into personal debts or unrelated businesses. Consumer and online scams include social media/messaging scams where phone accounts on Telegram or WhatsApp take payments for shippable “packs” and ghost buyers, and potency inflation through labs or brands allegedly mislabel THC percentages or hide failed contaminant tests. Operational risks result from cash-heavy vulnerabilities and include internal theft and skimming due to federal banking restrictions keeping transactions cash-centric.

Mitzi Keating is a partner in the firm’s Rhode Island office and Founder and Co-Leader of the Cannabis Advisory Services Practice. She has over 20 years of experience providing accounting and audit services, tax planning, business consulting, and forensic services.

Mitzi is known across the country as a cannabis industry expert in matters of financial due diligence, accounting, tax, and other financial challenges faced by operators, regulators, investors, and others ancillary to the cannabis industry. She is a regular speaker and presenter at national cannabis conferences, has published many articles, videos, and podcasts, and is an author of the Massachusetts Cannabis Law Manual.

Mitzi has a unique perspective on the cannabis business, as she has previous experience as an elected official in the town of Lakeville, MA, allowing her to understand the local regulatory challenges facing this industry. Having established a network of cannabis advisors, Mitzi is able to translate her knowledge to the needs of this unique industry as the industry evolves and is able to give you industry experience from working with actual growers, distributors, and applicants who have already navigated these waters. She has experience working with cultivators, dispensaries, cannabis transportation companies, and cannabis-related business in both the United States and Canada.

Please join us for this interesting and relevant presentation.

Click [here](#) to register!

Anti-Fraud Profession Career Paths

As an anti-fraud professional, many career paths are available in exciting fields, starting with Accounting, which includes forensic accountants who combine investigative and financial skills, alongside government and public accountants. Auditing is separated into external auditors who independently verify corporate financial statements and internal auditors who evaluate an organization's risk management and internal controls. The Governance, Risk Management, and Compliance path features compliance and risk management positions focused on mitigating company-wide operational, regulatory, and financial threats. Finally, the Investigation sector includes private-sector roles like loss prevention and fraud analysts, as well as public-sector careers spanning local police detectives to federal special agents. If you're thinking of joining the anti-fraud profession or are already there but looking for a career change, the [ACFE has resources](#) to help you research career paths and make an educated decision that meets your professional goals.



Pa. Man Convicted of COVID-Relief Fraud in Scheme Netting Over \$500K

A Pennsylvania man has been convicted in federal court of fraudulently obtaining more than \$500,000 in COVID-relief funds meant for small businesses. [Read More](#)

Brooklyn Adult Daycare Owner Sentenced to 76 Months in Prison for Leadership Role in \$68 Million Medicaid Fraud Scheme

In federal court in Brooklyn, Zakia Khan was sentenced by United States District Judge Natasha A. Merle to 76 months in prison in connection with her leadership role in carrying out a \$64 million Medicaid fraud and illegal kickback scheme at her two social adult daycare centers and a home health care company. [Read More](#)

With Sentencing Near, Tiawana Brown's Daughter Blames Her Own Mother

Antoinette Rouse is blaming her mother – former Charlotte city councilwoman Tiawna Brown – in the COVID-relief fraud case they'll both be sentenced. [Read More](#)

Citing Election-Fraud Concerns, Trump Administration Brings Dispute Over Voter Database to the Supreme Court

For the second time in three days, the Trump administration came to the Supreme Court, asking the justices to clear the way for it to implement a program that it says is intended to combat election fraud. [Read More](#)

Riley County Police Investigate \$82,364 Loss in Fraud Case

Riley County police were investigating a reported loss of more than \$82,000 in a fraud case in Manhattan. [Read More](#)

Six Medicaid Providers Indicted on Fraud Charges

Indictments filed by the office of Ohio Attorney General Andy Wilson accuse six Medicaid providers of stealing a combined \$558,383 from the government healthcare program for the needy. [Read More](#)

Boulder Police Asking for Public's Help in Gold Bars Fraud Case

The Boulder Police Department is trying to identify a man connected to two fraud investigations involving gold bars. [Read More](#)

Salt in the Wound: Recovery Scammers Target Recent Fraud Victims

It's like rubbing salt in a wound... You fall victim to a scam, only to become a target for other scammers. [Read More](#)

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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 100,000 members, the ACFE is reducing business fraud worldwide and inspiring public confidence in the integrity and objectivity within the profession. Visit www.acfe.com for more details.

Upcoming Events

- [Wednesday, November 11, 2026 – Meeting](#)
- [Wednesday, December 9, 2026 – Meeting](#)
- [Wednesday, February 10, 2027 – Meeting](#)
- [Wednesday, March 10, 2027 – Meeting](#)
- [Wednesday, April 14, 2027 – Meeting](#)
- [May 2027 – Fraud and Corruption Awareness Seminar \(Co-Sponsored with the IIA and Schneider Downs\)](#)
- [Wednesday, June 9, 2027 – Meeting](#)
- [June 2027 – Officer and Director Elections](#)

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