**Fraud Day**

Monday, February 10, 2025

**2025 Fraud Day: 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. (8 CPEs)**

**IIA/ACFE Members: $135/In-person (Lunch Included) or Virtual**

**Non-Members: $145/In-person (Lunch Included) or Virtual**

**Register Online at:**

[**2025 NEO IIA/ACFE Fraud Day**](https://na.eventscloud.com/827270)

Northeast Ohio IIA & ACFE are excited to announce our return to Embassy Suites for Fraud Day! The full day session will be held in-person; however, a virtual option will be available through our hybrid programming.

We are very proud to announce an exciting lineup of fraud-focused programming this year, which will include case studies, current fraud trends and schemes, computer intrusion investigations, ethical leadership, and investigation report writing.

The event will feature local and nationally renowned presenters including:

* Craig Stanland - Author of "Blank Canvas, How I Reinvented My Life After Prison”
* Richard Bowen - Citigroup Whistleblower and Ethical Leadership
* Meric Bloch – Workplace Investigation Specialist
* Michael Gerfin – Federal Bureau of Investigation

We look forward to seeing you there bright and early on February 10th!

**Fraud Day will be held in-person at the Embassy Suites in Independence (5800 Rockside Woods Blvd N, Independence, OH 44131) and virtually via the Zoom platform. For those who select the virtual option, a Zoom meeting link will be sent shortly after registration. There will also be an email sent a few days prior to the event with the Zoom link. Polling questions are required for CPE credit. Polling questions may not work with tablets or cellphones; please use a computer to ensure you can answer polling questions. If you have any questions or technical issues the day of the meeting, please email** **Marvin Tarry** **or** **Nick Jorz**.

Payment by cash will not be accepted at this time. For anyone that needs to pay for an event by check, please send to the following address:

 **NEO Institute of Internal Auditors**

 **PO Box 311008**

 **Independence, OH 44131**

We are pleased to offer this event to our retired, in-transition members, and current higher education faculty and students free of charge. Retired and in-transition members should register under the appropriate categories within the event website. Please contact Jonathan Sanfilippo if you have any questions.

**Meeting Agenda:**

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| **Times** | **Presenter & Topic** |
| **8:00 AM - 8:05AM**  | **Opening Announcements** |
| **8:05 AM - 9:45 AM****Session 1** | **Craig Stanland**Topic: How I Got Caught - A Deep Dive Into an 800K Fraud |
| **9:45 AM - 10:00 AM****Break** | **Break** |
| **10:00 AM - 10:50 AM****Session 2** | **Michael Gerfin (Federal Bureau of Investigation)**Topic: Computer Intrusion Investigations |
| **10:50 AM - 11:40 AM****Session 3** | **TBD**Topic: TBD |
| **11:40 AM - 12:55 PM****Lunch** | **Lunch** |
| **12:55 PM - 2:10 PM****Session 4** | **Richard Bowen (Former Citigroup Executive)**Topic: Citigroup Whistleblower and Ethical Leadership |
| **2:10 PM - 2:25 PM****Break** | **Break** |
| **2:25 PM - 4:25 PM****Session 5** | **Meric Bloch** Topic: Investigation Reports |

**Presenter Bios:**

**Session 1: How I Got Caught - A Deep Dive Into an 800K Fraud**



In 2012, **Craig Stanland** made a decision that shattered his life. His decision caught the attention of the FBI, leading to a two-year federal prison sentence, three years of supervised release, and restitution in excess of $800,000.

His actions cost him his marriage, homes, cars, career, and even his will to live. However, this was not the end for Craig. Instead, it marked the beginning of a new chapter. Today, he is a Keynote speaker, Consultant, Reinvention Architect, and Author of "Blank Canvas, How I Reinvented My Life After Prison.”

Learning Objectives:

* Understanding the Mindset Behind Fraudulent Behavior: This insight is crucial for professionals in auditing and finance to recognize early warning signs and understand the mindset behind fraudulent activities.
* Identifying Red Flags in Fraudulent Activities: This objective focuses on equipping the audience with the skills to identify subtle and overt red flags indicative of fraudulent behavior. 3. Identifying Methods to Catch Fraud: This objective focuses on equipping the audience with an insider's perspective on how to take a multi-faceted approach to apprehend fraud.

**Session 2: Computer Intrusion Investigations**

**Michael Gerfin** is a Supervisory Special Agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation overseeing the Cleveland Division's Criminal Cyber squad. SSA Gerfin holds degrees in Computer Science and Physics, and has over 25 years experience in Information Technology. Before joining the FBI, he was a research scientist and software engineer working in the fields of image processing and industrial control systems. He has been responsible for investigating both National Security and Criminal computer intrusions during his over 16 years with the Bureau.

**Session 3: TBD**

*Note: Presenter bio to be included*

**Session 4: Citigroup Whistleblower and Speaker on Ethical Leadership**

**Richard Bowen** has been described in the news media, including the Wall Street Journal, CBS Evening News, and 60 Minutes, as the Citigroup whistleblower who repeatedly warned Citi executive management, beginning in 2006, about fraudulent business practices and potential losses related to mortgage sales and securitizations.

His warnings included a November 3, 2007, email to Robert Rubin, Chairman of the Citigroup Board of Directors, the Chief Risk Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Auditor. In this email, which was disclosed in public testimony, Mr. Bowen attempted to warn executive management and the board of directors about the extreme risks and potential losses to shareholders. In this email Mr. Bowen also requested an outside investigation of his business unit.

Mr. Bowen testified before the Securities and Exchange Commission in July of 2008, three months before the TARP bank bailouts, giving them 1,000 pages of documents evidencing fraudulent practices at Citigroup. He also provided nationally-televised testimony on April 7, 2010, before the Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission about his

experiences as Business Chief Underwriter for the Consumer Lending Group of Citigroup. In this position he had credit quality control responsibility over a business that involved the purchase and sale of $90 billion annually of residential mortgage loans.

Mr. Bowen's story has been widely reported in the news media and is also included in The Financial Crisis Inquiry Report, the congressional commission's official report to Congress, the President of the United States and the American people.

Mr. Bowen's experiences are also highlighted in the 60 Minutes story, Prosecuting Wall Street. "I started raising those warnings in June of 2006. The volumes increased through 2007 and the rate of defective mortgages increased to in excess of 80 percent," Bowen told Steve Kroft in the interview that originally aired with 12 million viewers on December 4, 2011, and has since been re-aired eight times on CBS and CNBC. Additionally, details of the government cover-ups of Mr. Bowen's testimony occurring at the SEC, FCIC and DOJ were revealed in the

September 22, 2013 New York Times full page op-ed, Was This Whistle-Blower Muzzled?, and in a March 2015 Bloomberg TV interview, Was there Wrongdoing in the Financial Crisis, Mr. Bowen called for a Congressional investigation of the cover-ups.

Mr. Bowen has thirty-five years banking experience and has held executive positions in credit, finance, and information technology. Prior to Citigroup Mr. Bowen was Senior Vice President with Associates First Capital Corporation and Bank One Corporation and Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of First National Bank of Oklahoma City.

Mr. Bowen retired in 2022 as a professor of accounting at the University of Texas at Dallas but continues as a popular speaker in the field of business ethics. He has a BS in Mechanical Engineering from Texas Tech University and a Master of Business Administration from the University of Texas at Austin. He is also a Certified Public Accountant (Retired) in the state of Texas, and was named 2012 CPA of the Year by the Texas Society of CPA's.

Mr. Bowen was recognized by D CEO magazine as the recipient of its Financial Executives Award for Excellence in Corporate Governance and was also honored by the Society of Professional Journalists and the Government Accountability Project in 25 Times Whistleblowers Have Changed History.

**Session 5: Investigation Reports**

**Meric Bloch** is the Principal of Winter Investigations, a consulting firm specializing in workplace investigations design and implementation.  Meric was an ethics and compliance officer for two multinational Fortune 500 companies.  He designed, implemented, and managed each company’s workplace-investigations process worldwide.  He has trained thousands of HR and compliance professionals to conduct investigations.

Meric has personally conducted over 800 internal investigations of fraud and serious workplace misconduct globally.  Meric earlier served as an in-house counsel for three multinational companies and began his career as a litigator in Manhattan.

Meric holds Bachelor of Arts and Juris Doctor degrees from New York University.  He is a Certified Fraud Examiner, a Professional Certified Investigator, a Certified Financial Crime Specialist, a Certified Information Privacy Professional, and has the Corporate Compliance and Ethics Professional – Fellow designation.

Meric is the author of three books on investigations: *Workplace Investigations: Techniques and Strategies for Investigators and Compliance Officers, Investigative Interviewing*and *The First Information Is Almost Always*

*Wrong.* He also wrote chapters in the*Bribery and Corruption Casebook*and *The Complete Compliance and Ethics Manual*.  He has published numerous articles on investigations topics and is a frequent public speaker on the workplace-investigations process.

**Note: An updated version of the meeting announcement will be communicated with a finalized schedule next week.**