

Financial Crime Investigations for South Carolina Law Enforcement

“The Investigator’s Tool Box”



Sponsored by

U.S. Postal Inspection Service

in conjunction with

United States Attorney's Office - District of SC

Greer City Hall

301 E. Poinsett Street
Greer, SC 29651

February 17, 2010

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Financial crimes or "white collar crime," a phrase which was reportedly coined in 1939 by Professor Edwin Sutherland are synonymous with the full range of frauds committed against individuals, businesses and the government. Today's con artists are more savvy and sophisticated than ever, engineering everything from slick online scams to complex stock, investment and health care frauds.

This course is designed to provide local law enforcement with awareness of the many financial crimes investigated and prosecuted in South Carolina. We will focus on the emerging trends in these crimes, what to do if you identify these issues in the course of your investigations and how to help protect the public from common scams.

A general overview of financial crime cases prosecuted in this District and the state and federal statutes utilized will be presented. These topics will include mail and Identity Theft, Bank and wire fraud, computer crimes, Ponzi/investment schemes, and asset forfeiture.

A presentation by the U.S. Postal Inspection Service will be made regarding the recent spike in methamphetamine use in the southeast and the resulting upswing of financial crimes. The session will include such topics as drug trafficking organizations, investigating recidivist and organized groups ranging from Atlanta to Charlotte and case studies of the S.C. Upstate Financial Crimes Task Force.

Several presentations will focus on the importance of and provide tips and outlets for effective information sharing including; the FTC Sentinel, CECIG and SLED's SCIIC system. Also provided will be the merchant's perspective as provided by the regional security director of Wal-Mart.

US Secret Service agents will highlight their work on the SC Electronic Crimes Task Force and the investigation of counterfeit currency.

Overall, the course will provide tips for successful investigations and will familiarize officers with state and federal resources available to them. Presentations by SLED will include their new facial recognition capabilities and the FBI will focus on their respective role in large scale fraud prosecutions. Attendees will gain a greater understanding of which agency to call to assist them in their investigations

WHO SHOULD ATTEND

◆ All South Carolina Law Enforcement, including:

- Chiefs
- Sheriffs
- State & Local Investigators
- Detectives
- Patrol Officers
- Campus Police
- State & Local Prosecutors

Financial Crime Investigations for SC Law Enforcement "The Investigator's Tool Box" February 17, 2010

- 8:30 - 9:15 a.m. Registration**
- 9:15 a.m. Working Together to Curtail Financial Crimes**
U.S. Postal Inspector in Charge-Charlotte Division
Kevin F. McDonald, Acting U.S. Attorney
District of South Carolina
- 9:30 a.m. Financial Crime - Federal Overview**
Deborah B. Barbier, Deputy Criminal Chief,
General Crimes Section - U.S. Attorney's Office
- 10:00 a.m. Financial Crimes Investigated by FBI**
Michael E. Kelly, Special Agent
Federal Bureau of Investigation
- 10:30 a.m. BREAK**
- 10:45 a.m. Carolina Economic Crime Investigators Group (CECIG)**
Dennis W. Weathers AVP, COI Team, Loss Management,
Wachovia Bank
- 11:15 a.m. Financial Crime - State Overview**
Sylvia Harrison, Assistant Solicitor
White Collar Crime Unit - 13th Judicial Circuit
- 11:45 a.m. LUNCH**
- 12:30 p.m. Federal Trade Commission's Role in Financial Crime**
Betsy Broder, Chief of the Criminal Liaison Unit
Nicholas Mastrocinque, Attorney
Federal Trade Commission
- 1:15 p.m. SLED's Role in Financial Crime**
Lt. Buddy Wilkes, SLED &
Intelligence Analyst Patti Ruff, SLED
- 2:00 p.m. BREAK**
- 2:15 p.m. Counterfeiting and Identity Theft**
Iris Hughes, Special Agent
U. S. Secret Service &
Greg Johnson, Special Agent
U.S. Secret Service
- 2:45 p.m. Wal-Mart Financial Crime Investigations**
Rodney E. Suggs, Organized Retail Crime (ORC)
Field Investigator, Wal-Mart
- 3:15 p.m. Meth and Financial Crimes Task Force**
Jack Galvin, Team Leader
U.S. Postal Inspection Service - Charlotte Division
- 4:00 p.m. Adjourn**

Our presenters include . . .

Deborah B. Barbier is Deputy Criminal Chief of the General Crimes Section in the U.S. Attorney's Office. Ms. Barbier has worked for thirteen years as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of South Carolina. She was the lead attorney for the district's Affirmative Civil Enforcement Division where she prosecuted civil health care fraud, procurement fraud, food stamp fraud and drug diversion from 1996 through 2000. Ms. Barbier has been in the Criminal Division for the past nine years, prosecuting criminal health care fraud, white collar fraud, violent crimes and drug crimes. She has served as both the civil and criminal Health Care Fraud Coordinator and as the ACE Coordinator for the District of South Carolina. She was the Chief of the Asset Forfeiture Division for two and a half years.

Betsy Broder, a veteran Federal Trade Commission attorney and Chief of the Criminal Liaison Unit for the Federal Trade Commission has been involved in some of the agency's most cutting edge work. As both a litigator and manager, she investigated, led and supervised cases against telemarketing, business opportunity, and online pyramid scams. She also launched the FTC's ID theft program, including coordination with law enforcement, statistical research, and consumer and business education. Ms. Broder now heads the Criminal Liaison Unit, which promotes the criminal prosecution of consumer fraud cases by federal, state, and local agencies.

Jack Galvin is the Supervisory U.S. Postal Inspector for the state of South Carolina. He supervises nine Inspectors located throughout S.C. in all criminal investigations involving the U.S. mail. Mr. Galvin has more than 28 years in federal law enforcement and has worked in Baltimore, Miami, Jacksonville, and New Orleans (where he was the Incident Commander for Hurricane Katrina). Mr. Galvin has been in Columbia for the past three years.

Sylvia Harrison is an Assistant Solicitor and head of the White Collar Crime Unit for 13th Judicial Circuit. She handles all cases involving white collar crimes, bank fraud, computer crime, exploitation of vulnerable adults and additional violent crimes. She also handles all civil forfeiture work for Greenville and Pickens County. She graduated with a degree in Economics and a Minor in French History from Clemson University in 1978, an MBA from Furman in 1980 and earned her JD from Georgia State University in 1990. After getting her MBA she was a financial computer analyst designing software systems and decided to attend law school when her firm relocated.

Iris Hughes has been with the United States Secret Service for 10 years. She started her career in the New York Field Office, where she spent four years, before moving to Maryland, where she was a Control Tactics Instructor at the United States Secret Service Training Center for two years. Iris has been in the Greenville Office for a little more than three years. Prior to becoming a Secret Service Agent, Iris was a Police Officer with the City of Charleston Police Department and has investigated numerous financial crimes during her career.

Greg Johnson has been with the United States Secret Service for seven years. Prior to becoming a Secret Service Agent, he spent four years with the SC Highway Patrol. During his law enforcement career, Special Agent Johnson has investigated numerous financial crimes to include, but not limited to, bank fraud, Identity theft, Counterfeit commercial checks, counterfeit money, and access device fraud.

Michael C. Kelly has been a Special Agent with the Federal Bureau of Investigation for the past fourteen years. He has been assigned to the Los Angeles Office, Quantico, VA. Office, and for the past year and one-half he has been in the Greenville SC Office where he investigates white collar crimes and primarily bank fraud.

Nicholas Mastrocinque, an attorney with the Federal Trade Commission's Division of Planning and Information, works on the Consumer Sentinel Network, a free investigative tool that allows users to search millions of consumer complaints. He previously worked for the Commission's Division of Marketing Practices doing fraud cases.

Kevin F. McDonald currently is serving as Acting United States Attorney for the District of South. Prior to being appointed to this position, he served as First Assistant United States Attorney and the Public Information Officer for the District. He has also served as the Chief of the White Collar Crime Section of the Criminal Division. Since joining the U.S. Attorney's Office in October 2000, Mr. McDonald has handled numerous cases involving embezzlement, tax and securities violations, identity theft, immigration crimes, computer crimes, counterfeiting, and other white collar violations.

Patti Ruff is a Special Agent with SLED and currently works as a Criminal Intelligence Analyst in the South Carolina Information and Intelligence Center (SCIIC) where she collects, analyzes and disseminates intelligence information in support of ongoing investigations. Prior to being assigned to the SCIIC in 2008, Special Agent was a Forensic Evidence Technician at SLED and performed presumptive testing on evidence for the Trace Department and the DNA Department where she processed more than a thousand cases and where she qualified as an expert in the field of evidence processing in state and federal courts.

Rodney E Suggs is an Asset Protection Field Investigator with Wal-Mart and has been employed with Wal-Mart since April 1986. His past experiences include Store Operations Management, and Market Asset Protection Manager, which required the supervision of numerous store locations. He holds certifications in Interviewing and Interrogation provided by Reid and Associates as well as Wicklander and Zulowski. After 22 years in the field AP area, he recently transitioned to his current position as Organized Retail Crime (ORC) Field Investigator. His responsibilities include conducting Merchandise and Financial ORC investigations and working with local, state and federal law enforcement agencies in North and South Carolina. He has also conducted/assisted with investigations in Virginia, Georgia and Florida.

Dennis W. Weathers, COI Team, Loss Management, Wachovia, Bank, is a Senior Fraud Analyst, Certified Fraud Examiner & Certified Fraud Specialist. He is a member of International Association of Financial Crimes Investigators (IAFCI) and is also a twenty-five year veteran of the Greenville Police Department. Dennis is the co-creator and moderator of the Carolina Economic Crime Investigators Group (CECIG) as well as a member of North Carolina, Georgia, and Florida Intelligence networks.

Lieutenant Buddy Wilkes, a Lieutenant with SLED, currently serves as a Supervisory Special Agent in the SC Information and Intelligence Center (SCIIC), where his speciality is using information technology to identify, link, and locate criminal suspects. Lt. Wilkes started his law enforcement career upon graduation from The Citadel in 1981. During seven years with the Fairfield County Sheriff's Department, he rose to the rank of Captain. This was followed by a three-year stint in the private sector, serving as a Supervisor or Corporate Security, Fire Protection, and Human Resources for Mack Trucks, Inc. Twenty years ago, Lt. Wilkes joined SLED as a Special Agent, and has worked all types of criminal investigations as an investigator and polygraph examiner. He has also lectured extensively on interview techniques, criminal interrogation, and report writing.