



Welcome to the Greater Atlanta ACAMS Chapter newsletter. The Atlanta Chapter of ACAMS launched in June 2011, and it 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 and Events:

Various ACAMS Webinars: Check upcoming webinars at [ACAMS.org](https://www.acams.org)

In Focus: Fraud Watch - December 2025 Available, Online (1 ACAMS Credits), visit [ACAMS.org](https://www.acams.org)

In Focus: AFC Regulatory Watch - December 2025: Available, Online (1 ACAMS Credits), visit [ACAMS.org](https://www.acams.org)

Next ACAMS Atlanta Chapter Event: 🍷 **Winter Social Mixer** 🍷 January 21st, 2026 – registrations to follow.

Did You See This?

ACAMS  **MONEYLAUNDERING.COM**

US Agencies Amend Joint Advisory on Sanctions, Export Control Relief for Syria*

“A bureau of the U.S. Treasury Department received input from 23 trade groups and other parties on a proposal to further postpone anti-money laundering obligations for registered investment advisers, or RIAs, and exempt reporting advisers, or ERAs, until Jan. 1, 2028.”

To learn more visit [ACAMS Moneylaundering.com](https://www.acams.org/moneylaundering.com)

FinCEN Investigating 6 Border MSBs*

“yearslong, multi-national investigation led by Germany into a €300 million fraud and money laundering scheme underscores the growing threat posed by corrupt financial-services insiders, and the need for payment platforms and other institutions to vet staff thoroughly.”

To learn more visit [ACAMS Moneylaundering.com](https://www.acams.org/moneylaundering.com)

***Log-in may be required**



We're Looking for Our Next Chapter Treasurer!

Hey ACAMS Members,

Are you passionate about fighting financial crime and want to take a more active role in our chapter? We've got an exciting opportunity for you! Our chapter board is looking for a new **Treasurer** to manage our budget, track expenses, handle forecasting, and report financial updates to the board.

This is a fantastic chance to gain valuable leadership experience, network with fellow professionals, and contribute directly to the success of our chapter. If you enjoy working with numbers and a desire to make a difference, we encourage you to consider this role!

Interested? Here's how to let us know

- **Express your interest:** Send a brief email to AcamsAtlanta2023@gmail.com, letting us know you're interested.
- **Tell us about yourself:** Include a short paragraph (or a few bullet points) about your relevant experience or why you'd be a great fit for the Treasurer position.
- **Got questions?** Don't hesitate to reach out to AcamsAtlanta2023@gmail.com, for more details

Come join us in shaping the future of our chapter!"



Atlanta Chapter's 4th Quarter 2025 Learning Event!

November Virtual Event Recap: “No Cash Left Behind: Getting CTR & Regulatory Obligations Right”

The ACAMS Atlanta Chapter's November 2025 webinar, No Cash Left Behind: Getting CTR & Regulatory Obligations Right, featured Bradley Stauffer, Product Manager and Brad Cory, Product Management Director at NICE Actimize. The session offered valuable insights into the regulatory framework, reporting types, and the continued importance of CTRs in financial crime prevention.

Bradley Stauffer began with a brief overview of the evolving history of CTRs in the U.S., highlighting requirements and operational risks stemming from regulatory findings. These risks include legal fines, penalties for non-compliance, facilitation of crime, reputational damage, and loss of trust. A central theme was the critical role of Currency Transaction Reports (CTRs) in maintaining regulatory compliance and financial integrity.

Throughout the webinar, a key theme was the critical role of internal audit in digital asset oversight. Jones emphasized a threefold framework of oversight, assurance, and advisory, where auditors evaluate control effectiveness, test BSA/AML compliance, and guide risk management strategies. He encouraged auditors to strengthen crypto-specific risk assessments, custody controls, real-time monitoring, and governance alignment.

Bradley emphasized the importance of monitoring cash transactions, noting threshold changes and increasing specificity in geographical focus to target high-risk sectors. He shared a key regulatory update affecting MSBs: the Geographic Targeting Order (GTO), issued by FinCEN, to address risks along the U.S. southwest border. The GTO aims to combat illicit activities like money laundering and drug trafficking, targeting criminal actors involved in these flows.

On the other hand, Brad touched on current market challenges faced by financial institutions, including pressure to convert regulatory reports into actionable intelligence amid data, technology, and resource constraints. He concluded with best practices for developing a robust CTR compliance program and shared key takeaways.

The ACAMS Atlanta Chapter extends gratitude to Bradley, Brad, and everyone who joined us for this valuable and engaging online event!



ACAMS Atlanta Chapter Gold Sponsor, Thank You!

Easing Syrian Sanctions, Cracking
Down on Russia's Shadow Fleet
and Pressuring Iran...

Discover How Shifting Priorities Shape
the Global Sanctions Landscape



Download the Latest Sanctions Pulse Ebook

Click the banner or below to visit the report:

[Taking the Pulse of Major Sanctions 2025 H1 Results](#)



Atlanta Chapter Spotlight Member Of The Month

Blake Walker, CAMS

Financial Services Consulting Director | BSA/AML Audit | Regulatory Compliance



Blake is a Director with Crowe's Financial Services Consulting Practice with over 25 years of BSA/AML experience. He obtained his ACAMS certification in 2004. Prior to joining Crowe in 2014, he worked for almost 15 years in the financial services industry overseeing BSA and fraud programs for two of the US's largest financial institutions. He moved to Atlanta with his wife in 2019 and has served as Secretary on the Atlanta ACAMS Chapter Board since early 2021.

He graduated from college with a music degree and so his career path naturally led him into BSA oversight. Beginning his career at Regions Bank prior to the implementation of CIP, he was quickly a hit with relationship managers and bank customers across the south. Over the last 25 years, he has experienced all the

fun that BSA/AML can offer including leading multiple bank acquisitions and mergers, managing complex software implementations and years of audits and regulatory exams with the FDIC, OCC and Fed.

When not combatting crime, Blake loves spending time with his three kids (their spouses) and his four grandkids (3 boys / 1 girl) and is excitedly awaiting two more. Growing up, he played, ref'd and coached soccer for over 25 years and continues his love of the sport by taking his wife on at least 17 romantic dates a year as an Atlanta United season ticket holder.

Blake is grateful for the career and opportunity he has been provided and looks forward to many more years of serving this community of risk professionals that has been his focus for more half his life.



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 Resources:

The World Cup: A Magnet for Financial Crime*

“History has demonstrated that global sporting events often attract a significant amount of illicit activity. For financial institutions (FIs), law enforcement (LE), and businesses, the World Cup represents more than just a tournament; it serves as a real-time stress test of your defenses. The question is not if risks will arise, but rather whether you are prepared to confront them directly.”

For more details visit Learn.ACAMS.org page to access the full article.

Featured Article:

AML/AFC trends in 2025 and emerging topics for 2026*

“This bulletin provides a comprehensive global view of regulatory changes by categorizing enforcement activities across Europe, North America, the Middle East and Africa, and the Asia-Pacific region.”

For more details visit the ACAMSToday.org page to access the full article.

*Log in may be required



Featured Article of the Month:

North Korean IT Worker Infiltration: Synthetic identities

The article discusses a rising threat posed by North Korean operatives infiltrating companies as fake IT professionals through synthetic identities and AI-driven deepfake technology. These operatives create fabricated profiles, use VPNs and stolen documents, and employ deepfake video interviews to bypass traditional screening, aiming to gain illicit income and establish backdoors for future cyberattacks.

Over recent years, North Korea has successfully placed operatives in over 100 U.S. companies, stealing sensitive data and cryptocurrency, with incidents surging 220% from 2024 to 2025. The threat exploits vulnerabilities in remote hiring, gig work, and third-party staffing agencies, which often lack rigorous vetting processes.

Common red flags include inconsistent personal details, unusual login patterns, evasive interview behaviors, and suspicious financial requests like cryptocurrency payments. The infiltration risks violating sanctions, leading to legal penalties, and poses cybersecurity dangers, including espionage and future ransomware attacks.

To combat this, organizations must enhance their hiring and onboarding procedures, train staff to recognize warning signs, and implement multi-layered verification measures. Recognizing and addressing these sophisticated impersonation tactics is critical for AFC compliance teams to protect assets, maintain regulatory compliance, and prevent the funding of North Korea's regime through illicit cyber activities.

For more details visit the [ACAMS.org](https://www.acams.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).



Are you already a member?

If not, don't miss out on the countless advantages of joining our chapter!

Membership offers you exclusive access to a dynamic and diverse network of individuals and industry leaders including professionals from banks, credit unions, broker dealers, mutual funds, insurance companies, money services businesses, credit card providers, law firms, federal law enforcement agencies, and banking and securities regulators. Where you can connect, collaborate and elevate your career within this powerful community of experts that are shaping the future of the industry and the compliance landscape.

The Atlanta Chapter is dedicated to empowering local ACAMS professionals by fostering growth, innovation, and excellence. We are committed to supporting the ACAMS mission to enhance your knowledge, skills, and experience in the vital fight against financial crimes.

Ready to join us or renew?

Click [here](#) to unlock these benefits and so much more.

Have any questions? Consult our [FAQ](#) section, complete the contact form or email chapters@acams.org (include Atlanta Chapter membership).

Keep your professional edge sharp—renew today and stay connected with the leading experts and resources in the industry. Do not miss your chance to stay ahead and thrive on your profession!



ACAMS Atlanta Chapter Members:

- **Reminder:** Is your membership active? Log into your ACAMS account and click the joinchapter link for renewal.
- Do you have any **suggestions**? Please contact us at Chapters@acams.org (include AtlantaChapter 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
- **The ACAMS Atlanta Chapter is thrilled to announce new committees!**

We invite chapter members to join a committee and contribute your expertise to the anti-financial crimes industry. These committees are a fantastic opportunity to develop your professional network and shape the future of our chapter.

- Banking, Communications, Education, Ethics, Events, Fintech, Membership, and Regulatory Committees.

Interested in joining a committee? To learn more or express your interest contact Chapters@acams.org (include Atlanta Chapter Committee response in the subject of your email).

ACAMS Atlanta Chapter Board Members:

Daniel Fields, CAMS: Chair | Robert Hager: Co-Chair | Ed Edmister, CAMS, USN Ret.: Emeritus Chair | Katrin Gancheva, CFE: Treasurer | Blake Walker, CAMS: Secretary | Beau Buckler: Membership Director | Ernesto Davila, CAMS: Co-Secretary | Theresa Collins, CAMS: Co-Membership Director | Robert Hager: Programming Director | Glauca Farmer, CAMS: Communications Director | Erik Cortorreal, CAMS: Co-Communications Director