

## **INVESTIGATING AND PROSECUTING FRAUD IN CANADA**

Several themes come to mind when we think about the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Anti-fraud professional including innovation, collaboration, efficiency, communication and continuous improvement. The ACFE Vancouver Chapter is pleased to provide the following presentations that address the current investigative and prosecution landscape in Canada and possible innovations.

**Date:**           **November 22, 2017**

**Time:**           **8:30 am to 9:00am Registration**  
**9:00am to 12:30 pm Presentations (3 Hours)**

**Venue:**       **Justice Institute of BC (Main Theatre)**  
715 McBride Blvd, New Westminster, B.C., V3L 5T4

### **Topics:**

#### **Has Canada Become Incapable of Investigating and Prosecuting Major Financial Crime?**

Since the 1960s, the RCMP has struggled to maintain itself as Canada's foremost investigator of national and international financial crime. With many ups and downs along the way, the Force's financial crime sections have been underperforming. The courts have not made it any easier. Since the enactment of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms* in 1982, the courts have handed down a long string of rulings that severely curtail the ability of investigators and prosecutors to do their jobs. Cases take much more time and resources to pursue, are harder to prove even when done properly, and often force hard choices about the files investigators and prosecutors will take on in the first place.

#### **Civil and Criminal Remedies for Fraud - Which Works Best for Your Client?**

You have been retained to advise a client who is a recent victim of fraud. The client wants to know whether they should complain to the police or, instead, retain legal counsel and sue the fraudster. What factors go into making such a decision? This presentation will cover the key legal, strategic and tactical issues involved, enabling you to confidently advise your clients how to effectively seek restitution and asset recovery using the different legal regimes available in Canada.

## **Fraud Investigation Case Study Review**

We will review real life fraud investigation cases and the keys to identifying the frauds. In addition, we will review the control environment best practices and some “Key Controls” including hiring practices, compensation plans, whistle blower programs, codes of conduct and the disclosure of fraud incidents.

### **Speaker Bios:**

#### **John Ahern:**

Mr. Ahern is a Vancouver-based lawyer specializing in the provision of legal advice and major case management services to investigators, corporations and law firms. He also defends peace officers facing criminal and disciplinary proceedings. Prior to returning to private practice in early 2017, Mr. Ahern was Senior Crown Counsel with the British Columbia Prosecution Service for more than 20 years, where his Province-wide practice focused on the prosecution of major financial crime. Mr. Ahern has also practiced civil litigation, representing plaintiffs in civil fraud cases. He is a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) and a graduate of the Canadian Securities Course and the Osgoode Hall Law School Intensive Course in Canadian Securities Law and Practice. Before attending law school, Mr. Ahern served 17 years as a peace officer with Canada Customs, the Peel Regional Police and the RCMP.

#### **Patrick Seeley:**

Mr. Seeley has over 25 years’ experience in the accounting, finance, auditing profession for a variety of organizations including public accounting, publicly traded companies, banking, and government. With regards to fighting white collar crime, key roles included fraud prevention, investigation, and detection as the lead of a “quick response fraud unit” for a major publicly traded company based out of Burnaby, BC, and Toronto, Ontario with operations in Canada, US, Mexico, and Western Europe. Mr. Seeley also worked collaboratively with external policing authorities to support white collar crime investigations while in the banking industry including performed regulatory compliance audits of industry participants. In addition, Mr. Seeley has led investigations associated with allegations of non-compliance and/or fraud while working within the Provincial Government of British Columbia. He is a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) as well as a CPA-CMA, CIA, and CRMA certified. Mr. Seeley is also the principal of CPA firm, Centrefield Professional Services which offers traditional accounting and tax, include CFO services, strategic planning, risk management, internal audit, and fraud prevention, detection, and investigation.