



Pacific Northwest Chapter #45

# ACFE PNW **Fraud Examiner** Newsletter

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## Chapter News

### New Board Member

Please join us in welcoming Joe Boynton, CFE who was recently brought on as the newest Board Member for the PNW Chapter, serving as Director-at-Large. Joe is a federal agent with nine years of experience investigating injured worker's compensation, medical provider, unemployment, and financial fraud schemes. Joe has a total of 17 years of law enforcement experience spanning federal, military and local law enforcement. Prior to starting his career in law enforcement, Joe honorably served nine years active duty in the US Navy participating in Operation Southern Watch and Enduring Freedom.



### NEW PNW Chapter Linked-In Page

Joe has already been hard at work for the Chapter, setting up our very first PNW Chapter Linked-In page [here](#). You will find announcements, news about the Chapter and training, and fraud related news articles of interest. Please be sure to like the page for all the recent news and updates.



## Message From the President

Greetings from the PNW Chapter of the ACFE!

As we head into the Fall and Thanksgiving season, I wanted to take the opportunity to thank each of you for your membership in the PNW Chapter of the ACFE. It is because of your ongoing support that the Chapter exists in first place. It is also what allows us to continue providing great resources, networking and training opportunities year-round to help in the detection and prevention of fraud. Please let me (or anyone on the Board) know if there is anything that we can do to make the Chapter the best it can be - after all, we are here for and because of YOU!



-Mike Nurse

### Open Board Position

We have one more open position on our Chapter Board of Directors! If you have an interest in serving in a leadership role with the PNW Chapter, please email [mnurse@clarknuber.com](mailto:mnurse@clarknuber.com).



### Speaker Opportunities

We have a need for speakers at our monthly training seminars. Please consider volunteering to share your knowledge with the Chapter. Presentations need to be 50 - 55 minutes in length, and must have something to do with a fraud-related topic.





# Local Fraud in the News

The following press release was issued on Thursday, September 23, 2021 at justice.gov

## Tax preparer convicted of multiple counts of tax fraud for filing false tax returns to increase his fees.

**Seattle** - a 58-year-old resident of Pacific, WA, was convicted on Wed. September 22nd in U.S. District Court in Seattle, of 14 counts of aiding and abetting the filing of false tax returns, announced Acting U.S. Attorney Tessa M. Gorman. Jean Mpouli worked for 25 years as an aviation inspector for the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), while on the side he ran a tax preparation business with hundreds of clients, offering his services primarily to African immigrants. At the 3-day trial prosecutors showed how Mpouli falsely increased deductions for unreimbursed business expenses and educational expenses to boost his clients' tax refunds. Mpouli took a percentage of the refund as his fee, so the higher the refund, the larger the fee. On his personal tax returns, Mpouli hid over \$200,000 of revenue generated from his illegal side business. The jury deliberated less than two hours before returning the guilty verdicts.

Mpouli faces up to 3 years in prison per count of conviction when sentenced by U.S. District Judge John C. Coughenour on January 11, 2022.

"Even as he was employed by the federal government, this defendant sought to cheat the government out of tax revenue," said Acting U.S. Attorney Gorman. "He drew his clientele from his community, which consisted of hard-working immigrants from Africa and their children. He filed the false returns largely without the knowledge of the immigrants who sought his help - leaving them to deal with the IRS when the false entries were uncovered."

When investigators contacted a random sampling of the clients who had used Mpouli's services, they said they were not aware of the extent of the deductions he had claimed on their behalf. Many did not own vehicles even though Mpouli listed unreimbursed car expenses. Others never attended the educational institution listed on the returns. In some instances, he claimed children were attending a secondary education institution, even though the children were actually enrolled in daycare or elementary school. The clients said Mpouli did not discuss the returns with them before filing, and when they were notified that they were being audited, he refused to assist them.

According to financial records, during the time period of the fraud, Mpouli was sending more than \$300,000 to his native Cameroon to pay for the construction of an apartment building.

The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service: Criminal Investigations. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Lyndsie Schmalz and Frances Franze-Nakamura.

## PNW ACFE Board of Directors



Mike Nurse  
President



Kari Overson  
Vice-President



Victoria Kitts  
Treasurer-Secretary



James Peet  
Training Director



Robert Goehring  
Member-at-Large



Joe Boynton  
Member-at-Large

# Attention Students!

## FREE MONEY

for your education expenses!

Did you know that there are two scholarship opportunities for full-time students seeking a major or minor in accounting, business administration, finance or criminal justice programs in the Pacific Northwest?

The **Joseph R. Dervaes Scholarship** is unique to the PNW Chapter. It grants one \$1,500 award per year. You must be attending a qualifying four-year college or university in the state of Washington.

The **ACFE Foundation Ritchie-Jennings Memorial Scholarship** Program grants 20 to 30 scholarships each year, ranging from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

**Application deadline is March 31, 2022**

More details can be found at [www.pnwacfe/scholarships](http://www.pnwacfe/scholarships)

## Upcoming Training

### October 7th and 8th, 2021

Joint Training with Utah ACFE Chapter: White Collar Crime Conference

Up to 14 units of CPE are available, and there is a great lineup of speakers, including the President and CEO of ACFE (National), who will be presenting on the "Landscape of Fraud"

### November 4th, 2021

Joint Training with South Florida and Twin Cities ACFE Chapters

Earn up to 5 units of CPE. Conference includes a presentation from ACFE 2020 James R. Baker Speaker of the Year award winner, Michael Bret Hood, who will be presenting on Advanced Money Laundering.

For more information and to register, please visit [www.pnwacfe.org/training](http://www.pnwacfe.org/training)

welcome  
to our newest members!

### New Chapter Members

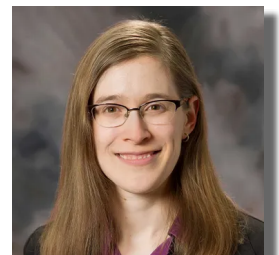
Charito Alcantara-Leveque  
Bobbie Hatton  
Angela Jones  
Mary Taylor

### New Student Members

Elle Baker  
Kyle Parker  
Summer Truswell

## Board Member Spotlight

Victoria Kitts, CFE, CPA has spent the last 15 years of her accounting career at Clark Nuber, PS, a regional CPA firm in Bellevue, WA. As a senior manager in the audit and assurance department, Victoria works in the not-for-profit niche serving a variety of organizations as their external auditor. She first learned about the CFE certification at her previous employer, a CPA firm in the greater Boston area. Her manager was interested in starting a forensics team in the office and asked if she would be interested in joining him. Changes in Victoria's personal life brought her out to Seattle shortly thereafter, but the certification and interest in the field came with her. Victoria finds the insight into people's motivations and understanding the fraud triangle to be invaluable assets in performing financial statement audits.





**ACFE**<sup>®</sup>

Association of Certified Fraud Examiners

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