

2025 NYCFE SPRING FRAUD CONFERENCE

SPEAKER BIOS

See Below for Information about our Speakers

Dirty Deals and Fictitious Funds

By Michael Schidlow

“Dirty Deals and Fictitious Funds” is an investigative presentation exploring the intersection of fraud and trade-based money laundering (TBML). Drawing from real-world cases, global advisories, and typologies involving sanctioned entities and illicit financial flows, the session examines how fraud — from misrepresentations in shipping to the use of shell companies — fuels complex laundering schemes.

The presentation dissects the mechanics behind fake freight, manipulated trade documents, front companies, and AI-driven fraud, with special emphasis on North Korean state-sponsored financial crimes and human trafficking as predicate offenses. Attendees gain insights into how misrepresentation and layered transactions obscure value transfer, and how red flags in trade documentation and vessel behavior can signal criminal activity.

Learning Objectives include:

- Gaining insights into how misrepresentation and layered transactions obscure value transfer
- How red flags in trade documentation and vessel behavior can signal criminal activity
- Exploring Predicate Offenses and Global Implications



Meet the Speaker:

Michael Schidlow is a seasoned financial crime compliance and risk management professional, with specialized expertise in BSA/AML, sanctions, and fraud. He has held senior positions across legal, investigative, audit, and compliance functions at major financial institutions, where he has played a key role in shaping and enhancing risk and control frameworks.

Michael holds a Juris Doctor and Bachelor of Arts and is a Certified AML Audit Specialist (CAMS-Audit), Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), and Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist (CAMS). He is widely recognized for his subject matter expertise and for his ability to translate complex regulatory expectations into practical, effective strategies for risk management.

Updates on the FCPA and FinCEN's AML Enforcement

John Auerbach, Alberto Orcazo, and Emily Butler of Nardello & Co. aim to explore the U.S. government's evolving enforcement priorities, focusing on Latin American cartels and transnational criminal organizations (TCOs), and the implications for corporate compliance and investigative strategies. They will begin by looking at the pause in Foreign Corrupt Practices Act (FCPA) enforcement and discussing the potential impact on corporate behavior and investigative priorities. Additionally, they will explore the legal ramifications of the new designation of TCOs as Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs), and how this shift may influence risk frameworks for companies operating in Latin America.

This shift in government focus also underscores the growing significance of anti-money laundering (AML) efforts, particularly considering FinCEN's recent alert on bulk cash smuggling activities by Mexico-based TCOs, highlighting the need for a comprehensive approach to financial crime investigations in the region as well as for extended money laundering networks around the world. In this context, they will examine the tools and strategies available for addressing regulatory violations, the growing threat posed by cartels, and the importance of AML measures in tackling illicit financial flows, with the goal of providing a deeper understanding of how the changing landscape of US enforcement impacts strategies and tools used to mitigate risk.

Learning objectives include:

- Understanding Shifting FCPA Enforcement Priorities
- Assessing the Legal and Risk Implications of Designating TCOs as Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs)
- Strengthening Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Financial Crime Investigations

Meet the Speakers:



Managing Director **John Auerbach** has over 20 years of experience managing complex domestic and international corporate investigations and litigation, compliance, and M&A advisory projects. He specializes in corporate integrity inquiries related to third party risk management, financial fraud, and anti-bribery/anti-corruption, anti-money laundering, and sanctions compliance. As a forensic investigator and business intelligence specialist, he has led numerous high-profile investigations, compliance reviews, and accounting restatement matters around the world in response to US and overseas regulatory actions, including those related to securities fraud, the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, and anti-money laundering, anti-trust, anti-dumping, and sanctions violations. He has led notable engagements within the life sciences, financial services, consumer product, and technology sectors. He is a fluent Mandarin speaker and a widely recognized subject matter expert on topics related to fraud, corruption, and operational risk management in China. Prior to joining Nardello & Co., John was a partner in a Big Four accounting firm where he managed the forensic practice in Greater China for ten years, then returned to the firm's US forensic practice in New York. Before that, he led the mainland China practice of a corporate investigations and risk consulting firm.



Managing Director **Alberto Orcazo** brings over two decades of experience in financial consulting, assurance, and business advisory services. He is a recognized expert in accounting, finance controls, compliance, and corporate governance, with a proven record of leading compliance audits, investigations, and acquisition reviews on a global scale. Prior to joining Nardello & Co., Alberto was a partner at one of the Big Four accounting firms, where he advised clients on strategies to navigate complex, cross-border regulatory inquiries and develop governance, transparency, and integrity programs. Alberto's extensive international work spans financial fraud, anti-bribery, asset misappropriation, and procurement/vendor fraud investigations, as well as due diligence and compliance reviews in over 20 countries. His deep understanding of Latin American culture, customs, and practices has been invaluable in advising clients on potential opportunities and risks in the region.



Director **Emily Butler** has over seven years of experience specializing in complex litigation support matters, monitorships, and fraud and business intelligence investigations. She spent two years working on an export control compliance monitorship of a major Chinese telecommunications company subject to US sanctions. A Certified Fraud Examiner and Certified Sanctions Specialist, she has worked extensively with global corporations, law firms, and government entities. Prior to joining Nardello & Co., Emily worked for a top business management consulting firm, where she investigated a \$2 billion multi-jurisdictional fraud connected to the alleged diversion of funds in a dividend arbitrage scheme and undertook an anti-money laundering and Know Your Customer compliance audit of a bank accused of failing to identify red flags associated with a Ponzi scheme. She holds a BA in International Affairs from the University of Georgia, an MA in Human Rights and Humanitarian Action from Sciences Po Paris, and an LLM in International Law from Université Paris Descartes.

Unmasking Elder Fraud: How Data and Analytics Can Protect Vulnerable Customers:
By: Aaron J. Glover, CFA, CFE, CAMS Managing Director

Elder financial exploitation is a growing and often invisible crisis, costing billions annually across the financial services ecosystem. As fraud tactics become more sophisticated, institutions must evolve their strategies to protect aging and vulnerable clients. This session explores how data and advanced analytics can play a critical role in detecting subtle indicators of exploitation—from shifts in transaction behavior to changes in communication tone or third-party activity.

Attendees will gain actionable insights into building proactive, data-driven frameworks that integrate awareness, prevention, detection, and response. We'll also highlight real-world examples and emerging best practices that demonstrate how financial institutions can lead with both innovation and compassion. Whether you're enhancing existing controls or designing new ones, this session will equip you with tools to address one of the most urgent challenges in fraud risk today.

Key Learning Objectives:

- **Understand the EFE:** Gain insight into the wide range of scams and typologies under the EFE umbrella and learn how they evolve over time.
- **Recognize Fraud Indicators:** Identify behavioral patterns and transactional red flags that may signal financial exploitation.
- **Leverage power of Analytics and Technology:** Explore how data and analytics can help detect, prevent, and respond to elder abuse in real time.
- **Industry Best Practices:** Gain insights into best practices for effective data-driven fraud mitigation framework.



Aaron J. Glover, CFA, CFE, CAMS Managing Director

Meet the Speaker:

Aaron Glover serves as Consulting Managing Director within Ernst & Young's Financial Services Organization (FSO), focusing on fraud risk, financial crimes, and elder exploitation. With a distinguished career spanning more than 15 years, Aaron has led complex engagements across top-tier financial institutions. His expertise bridges fraud prevention strategy, model governance, artificial intelligence ethics, and operational risk transformation.

Aaron has held leadership roles in technology and consulting, led major initiatives in fraud analytics and model risk management, and advised federal entities including the U.S. Treasury. He holds an MBA and MSc in Financial Engineering from Georgia Tech, a BSc in Statistics from the University of Tennessee, and maintains the CFA, CAMS, and CFE designations.

A recognized voice in the fraud and risk community, Aaron has been quoted in *The Economist* and *American Banker* and frequently speaks at conferences. He brings a critical lens to protecting vulnerable populations and will present on fraud, financial crimes, and elder abuse at the ACFE New York Chapter in April 2025.

The "Fraudemic": What is it? Why is it occurring? What can we do about it?

By: Andriana Vamvakas, CFE – President, Andromeda Advantage Inc.

This session explores the rise of systemic fraud tied to New York's construction laws—specifically Labor Law §§ 240 and 241, known as the Scaffold Law. Originally enacted in 1885 to protect construction workers, these statutes have since been judicially expanded to impose strict liability for gravity-related accidents. This legal framework, though well-intentioned, has created a market ripe for abuse. Following a pivotal expansion in 2009, the 2010s saw an explosion in inflated injury claims, with even minor injuries—sometimes referred to as “boot scratches”—yielding multimillion-dollar payouts. As fraudulent actors capitalized on this opportunity, a cottage industry of lawyers, doctors, and lawsuit lenders emerged to exploit the system. By 2020, the pandemic and shifts in labor dynamics fueled an unprecedented wave of staged construction site accidents—many involving no actual injury at all. Today, an alarming number of claims are driven by networks of repeat players who coordinate to maximize settlement value at the expense of insurers, developers, and taxpayers. This session will walk through the anatomy of this “fraudemic,” reveal investigative findings, and outline proactive solutions—from litigation strategies to legislative reform.

Takeaways:

- Understand how judicial expansions of NY Labor Law § 240/241 have distorted market dynamics.
- Identify red flags and patterns in staged construction site accidents.
- Learn from real-world investigations, lawsuits, and policy responses—including pending RICO actions and proposed felony legislation.
- Explore what CFEs and risk professionals can do to expose and disrupt this fraud ecosystem.

**Meet the Speaker:**

Andriana Vamvakas enjoyed a distinguished 34-year career with the United States Department of Labor's Office of Labor-Management Standards (OLMS). Her progression from Investigator in 1987 to Northeastern Regional Director in the Senior Executive Service exemplifies her unwavering dedication and exceptional leadership in upholding democratic standards and fiscal responsibility within both public and private labor organizations. Covering 11 states, including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, she effectively rooted out corruption and held dishonest union officials accountable.

In addition, Andriana made significant contributions to the OLMS Criminal Manual and served as an instructor for the agency. She has held various leadership roles, promoted governmental initiatives and cultivated relationships with the Regional Executive Board and federal law enforcement agencies.

Among her notable achievements, Andriana led high-profile investigations into embezzlement of union funds, fiduciary breaches, reporting and recordkeeping violations, and other white-collar crimes. Her region recorded the highest number of criminal indictments, underscoring her effectiveness in combating financial fraud and corruption.

Currently, Andriana Vamvakas serves as the President of Andromeda Advantage, a premier consulting and management services firm based in New York City. She oversees operations that cater to the construction industry, with a specific focus on building enclosure restoration projects.

In her presidential role, Andriana is spearheading the Staged Accident Construction Industry Initiative in New York City, investigating a significant fraud scheme involving staged accidents at construction sites.

Since the pandemic, the number of claims has increased fivefold. This criminal activity is primarily orchestrated by organized crime groups in New York City, which exploit undocumented migrants to stage accidents and submit fraudulent insurance claims or inflate minor injuries. Although each case varies, these illegal migrants play a crucial role in perpetuating this fraud, often benefiting financially from it. This scheme also involves runners, lawyers, and medical providers. Each fraudulent case can result in millions of dollars lost, ultimately costing the construction industry billions overall.

How I Got Caught: A Deep Dive Into an 800K Fraud

By: Craig Stanland

This session offers a rare, firsthand account of how fraud happens from the inside out—how small rationalizations escalate into financial crimes and how internal controls fail to stop them.

In "How I Got Caught," I take audiences beyond case studies and into the decision-making process behind an \$800,000 fraud against a Fortune 500 company.

We'll examine the red flags my company missed, the internal controls I exploited, and the warning signs that could have stopped me sooner.

We'll also break down the investigative process, including the three key methods the victim and the FBI used to build their case.

We'll also explore how AI and emerging technology could have detected the fraud much earlier.

This dynamic and interactive session provides fraud examiners and internal auditors with actionable insights into strengthening internal controls, recognizing behavioral warning signs, and enhancing fraud detection—helping organizations prevent financial damage before it happens.

Learning Objectives:

- **Recognizing the Mindset Behind Fraud:** Understand how small rationalizations escalate into financial crimes, giving fraud examiners and internal auditors deeper insight into the behavioral patterns that lead to fraud.
- **Detecting Red Flags and Weaknesses in Internal Controls:** Learn how to identify the warning signs of fraud, including overlooked behavioral red flags and gaps in internal controls that fraudsters exploit.
- **Strengthening Fraud Detection and Prevention:** Gain an insider's perspective on how fraud is uncovered, including real-world investigative techniques, internal control improvements, and the role AI and technology can play in early detection.

**Meet the Speaker:**

In 2012, Craig Stanland made a choice that cost him everything—his career, marriage, homes, cars, and even his will to live.

His actions led to a two-year federal prison sentence and the unraveling of the life he'd built. But hitting rock bottom wasn't the end. It was the beginning.

Today, Craig is a keynote speaker, reinvention architect, author of "Blank Canvas: How I Reinvented My Life After Prison," and a TEDx speaker with his talk, "How I Learned My Greatest Worth in Federal Prison."

Through his work, Craig reveals invaluable lessons on fraud, ethics, compliance, and the slippery slope of decision-making.

Additionally, he speaks on resilience, personal growth, and the art of reinvention—proving that it's never too late to rebuild, reimagine, and thrive.

His insights have been featured in The Good Men Project, Addicted 2 Success, Tiny Buddha, Intelligent Change, Brainz Magazine, and The Altucher Report.

When he's not on stage or writing, you'll find Craig hiking, paddleboarding, attending car shows, relaxing at the beach, or hanging out with his three special-needs cats.