

Investigating Fraud

Delivering bad news is difficult. Effective and professional response to fraud is a skillset that must be practiced and developed by auditors and investigators before a serious case emerges. Many investigators have learned this the hard way, after mishandling a case and causing more expense from counter-litigation than the loss from the fraud. Organizations have suffered unnecessary reputation damage from disastrous cover-ups, failed to identify all perpetrators, or retained known perpetrators and subjected themselves to even further losses.

Who should attend: Auditors & Investigators. This workshop guides auditors and investigators through proper investigation techniques and elegant solutions for locating and presenting evidence. We will address the key aspects of interviewing strategy & execution, how to structure questions, and how to read verbal & physical behavior. Attendees find, by applying the principles taught in this course, not only do they learn to professionally respond to fraud, but also they find increased confidence in their verbal and written communications, both inside and outside their organization.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this course, participants will understand how to:

- Plan and execute an effective investigation;
- Set an achievable goal and design a strategy for the investigation;
- Establish an environment in the organization for consistently successful investigations;
- Avoid pitfalls that lead to mishandling cases;
- Conduct interviews of subjects and read their behaviors;
- Obtain and document an admission of wrongdoing;
- Apply the principles of thinking & design to create an effective report for presentation to management and the audit committee;
- Combat attitudes that discourage professionals from performing effective investigations;
- Prove suspected wrongdoing;
- Recover losses;
- Deal effectively with law enforcement, bonding companies, management.

16 CPE

Field of Study: Accounting, Auditing

Group-live, no prerequisites or advanced preparation required.

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Investigating Fraud Course Contents

Preparing to Investigate Fraud

- ✓ Important steps to take before launching an investigation;
- ✓ Establishing the foundation of a successful investigation;
- ✓ Assignment of investigative responsibilities;
- ✓ How fraud should be addressed in policies.

Conducting the Investigation

- ✓ Fraud investigation checklist;
- ✓ Maintaining the attitude of a professional investigator;
- ✓ Securing the evidence;
- ✓ Setting the investigation objectives;
- ✓ Developing the scenario;
- ✓ Understanding common symptoms of fraud to determine the full extent of the problem.

Interviewing Subjects

- ✓ Planning and preparing for effective interviews;
- ✓ Handling interviewee objections and maintaining emotional control;
- ✓ Why people will admit to wrongdoing and how to handle an admission;
- ✓ What to expect as the interview progresses;
- ✓ Reading verbal and non-verbal behaviors;
- ✓ Documenting responses for evidence.

Presenting Evidence

- ✓ Rules of effective evidence presentation;
- ✓ Presentation pitfalls that can derail the case;
- ✓ Communicating difficult issues and handling conflict.

Learning from the Case

- ✓ Educating management and learning from failures;
- ✓ Communicating incidents throughout the organization;
- ✓ Gaining organizational wisdom to prevent future occurrences of the same fraud.

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About the Instructor

Scott Langlinais has dedicated over 20 years of his career as a CPA to fraud detection and investigation. Audit and finance professionals around the world have invited him in-house to assist with investigations and educate personnel about proper fraud detection, prevention, and response. Business leaders from emerging companies to Fortune 500's, across most industries, have asked him to assess their environment, perform diagnostic tests to detect symptoms of wrongdoing, and design strategies to help defend the organization's people, reputation, and assets. He has conducted investigations related to executive corruption, bribes & kickbacks, vendor overbilling & underperformance, and employee theft. He regularly reports his findings to Boards of Directors, has submitted his findings to law enforcement organizations such as the U.S. Secret Service, and has testified in court.

Mr. Langlinais employs sophisticated data analysis techniques to sift through system transactions and seek indicators of fraud. Using such techniques, he has helped companies recover millions of dollars from wrongdoing such as intentional overpayments to vendors, unbilled revenues, and corruption.

He speaks regularly about his fraud detection and investigation experiences at conferences hosted by the Institute of Internal Auditors, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners, State Auditors, and the Information Systems Audit and Control Association. The International Risk Management Institute has published several of his articles about fraud prevention.

Prior to starting his own practice in 2003, Mr. Langlinais held public accounting and internal audit leadership positions, and served as Chief Audit Executive for a NASDAQ 100 software company.

He received a BBA degree from the University of Notre Dame in 1991.

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