



LANSING CHAPTER OF THE ASSOCIATION OF CERTIFIED FRAUD EXAMINERS

Board:

All four board member nominees were re-elected: Molly Jeltema, Bethany Verble, Katelyn Conant, and Melanie Marks. Thank you for your votes!

We are still looking for one more person to fill a vacated board seat. Contact LACFE President Mark Lee if you would like information on the position (president@lansingacfe.com).

Annual Meeting and Training:

If you haven't already, please RSVP to Mark Lee (president@lansingacfe.com) for the Lansing ACFE Membership Appreciation and Annual Chapter Meeting on September 13th.

These are both FREE events to LACFE members and you will earn 1 CPE hour for attending.

If you are unable to be there in person, but would like to attend virtually, please let Mark know!

In This Issue

**Fraud Talk Podcast:
Deeds and Deceit: Real Estate
Fraud Trends**

Upcoming Events

**Fraud and Injustice: A Global
Crisis in Indigenous Communities**

Summer Puzzles Answers



Fraud Talk Podcast

Deeds and Deceit: Real Estate Fraud Trends - David Fleck - Fraud Talk - Episode 134

In this month's episode of Fraud Talk, the Chief Training Officer for the ACFE, John Gill, CFE, meets with David Fleck, Esq., business and real estate attorney who represents victims of business, real estate and investment fraud in lawsuits to recover their money, property and dignity. They discuss trends in real estate fraud including investment fraud, title theft and deed fraud, mortgage fraud and wire transfer fraud.

<https://acfe.podbean.com/e/deeds-and-deceit-real-estate-fraud-trends-david-fleck-fraud-talk-episode-133/>

Fraud and Injustice: A Global Crisis in Indigenous Communities

August 24, 2023

Abbie Staiger

<https://www.acfeinsights.com/acfe-insights/fraud-in-indigenous-communities>

Indigenous peoples around the world face marginalization and exploitation, leading to increased vulnerability. This puts them at a particular risk for fraud, as opportunistic fraudsters take advantage of systemic inequalities. Fraud against indigenous communities is especially harmful due to the unique challenges these groups face. Factors like geographic isolation, lack of access to resources and cultural marginalization leave indigenous peoples vulnerable to exploitation in ways other groups may not experience. Recent cases showcase how fraud scams indigenous groups across the globe.

Given the marginalization indigenous groups face, they often suffer from higher rates of poverty and lower access to health care and education. This leads to less awareness around fraud risks and fewer resources to recover from fraud harms. Geographic isolation also limits information sharing and support networks. Indigenous cultures face marginalization and dismissal within majority societies, allowing fraudsters to target them while avoiding scrutiny. Ultimately, fraud perpetuates the cycle of injustice experienced by these communities.

Several examples showcase this troubling trend:

In the Navajo Nation, an identity theft ring targeted tribal members. Fraudsters used victims' personal information to bill Medicaid for \$12 million in fake rehabilitation services between 2016-2019. Many of the victims were elderly individuals who did not speak English, allowing the scheme to operate undetected for years. This scam diverted critical health care resources from an already underserved community.

Some fraudsters misrepresent their indigenous identity for profit, known as "pretendians." One notable example is Andrea Smith, a professor of Native American studies who was later exposed for not having the Cherokee heritage she had claimed. She exploited her fictional identity to obtain grants, speaking engagements and other opportunities intended for indigenous peoples. Such fraudulent actions allow scammers to profit from marginalized identities while taking resources from authentic indigenous communities.

In Australia, there is a concerning rise in scams that specifically target Aboriginal communities. Tactics include high-pressure sales, offers of free prizes and unauthorized withdrawals from bank accounts. Aboriginal communities are particularly susceptible to these schemes due to language barriers, financial inexperience and geographic isolation. Additionally, there is often stigma associated with reporting such incidents, coupled with a general distrust of authorities, making it challenging for victims to seek assistance. This combination of factors enables scammers to operate with near impunity.

Another insidious tactic involves fake indigenous organizations or charities to solicit donations. For example, the “Saskatchewan Indigenous Cultural Centre,” was a fraudulent organization that falsely claimed on its website that it represented 60 First Nations bands. The site requested donations for educational programs that didn’t exist. These fraudulent groups take advantage of the public’s goodwill towards indigenous causes, ultimately embezzling funds. (CBC, 2023)

These examples illustrate the diverse nature of fraud against indigenous groups, all of which have disproportionately large impacts due to the social, economic and political marginalization these communities endure. Addressing the root causes of fraud is essential to its prevention. This might involve improving delivery of health care, promoting financial literacy, increasing internet access or fostering greater trust between authorities and indigenous people. Through more thoughtful solutions, we can combat the exploitation of vulnerable communities and create a more just society.

Video of the Month

[Stolen Covid relief funds: New calls for accountability over biggest fraud in U.S. history - YouTube](#)

After hundreds of billions of dollars were stolen from Covid relief programs, the Department of Justice is working to identify and arrest those responsible. NBC News’ Ken Dilanian has the details as lawmakers ask Attorney General Merrick Garland for more data on the funds stolen by foreign criminals.



Summer Word Scramble Solution

1.NBCAIGKKPA	BACKPACKING
2.ALAELSBB	BASEBALL
3.ABIOGNT	BOATING
4.NIBIIK	BIKINI
5.MNIAGPC	CAMPING
6.LOREFSW	FLOWERS
7.EIC RAMEC	ICE CREAM
8.CANEO	OCEAN
9.IICCPN	PICNIC
10.LRXAE	RELAX
11.USN	SUN
12.ETAH	HEAT
13.OTH	HOT
14.AADSLSN	SANDALS
15.MISW	SWIM
16.ELVART	TRAVEL
17.CIONTAAV	VACATION
18.TERMWAONEL	WATERMELON



Where in the World?

Logic Puzzle



	Last Name	Birth Place	Branch
Josh	Howard	Japan	Air Force
Melony	Gibbson	Germany	Army
Harris	Vale	Florida	Coast Guard
Joy	Bow	Brazil	Marines
Anna	Weaver	England	Navy

Quote of the Month

“Show respect to all people, but grovel to none.”

— Tecumseh, a Shawnee chief and warrior who promoted resistance to the expansion of the United States onto Native American lands. A persuasive orator, Tecumseh traveled widely, forming a Native American confederacy and promoting intertribal unity. Even though his efforts to unite Native Americans ended with his death in the War of 1812, he became an iconic folk hero in American, Indigenous, and Canadian popular history.