



Top 3 Things

- Spring Fraud Conference
- Board members needed
- 2 interesting local embezzlement cases

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Hello NEO ACFE members!

As of this writing, weather in Ohio can't make up its mind. Hot, cold, storms, sunny, raining. All in the same day. But the Cavs are up 2-0 in the playoffs and the Guardians are off to another great start to their season.

Thank you for being a member and I hope you are able to take advantage of our training sessions this year. We had a successful event partnering with the IIA in February for Fraud Day and we had our first lunch and learn event in March learning about red flags and how problems with data and dashboards can impact projects and how that can impact fraud investigations.

Our next event will be our Spring Conference June 17th at Sleepy Hollow Golf Course. More details within. Save the date and mark your calendars for a great lineup of speakers.

In the ICYMI Fraud News section, you'll find headlines to two very recent embezzlement cases involving a surprising organization of lawyers and the other a multi-million dollar scheme involving a long-term local company executive.

-Brian Frasier

Spring Fraud Conference

The NEO ACFE will return to Sleepy Hollow Golf Course for our Spring Fraud Conference on June 17th.

For those asking, “is that still spring?”. Why, yes it is still Spring time on that date by just a few days.

We have a great line up for this year’s event.

- 10am -12pm: Mark Puente - Investigative Reporter
- 12pm-1pm: Lunch
- 1pm-3pm: Speakers from the Ohio Auditor of State Keith Faber’s office
- 3pm-5pm: Jeremy Dane, Principle - Forensics at BDO

This event will provide 6 CPE credits. Registration details will be sent out soon. Lunch will be provided and there will be early bird pricing.

Spring Fraud Conference



Mark Puente
Investigative Reporter
The Marshall Project

**“What Corrupt Public Officials Don’t Want You to Find:
Inside an Investigative Reporter’s Notebook”**

Mark Puente is an investigative reporter at The Marshall Project - Cleveland. Puente, a two-time finalist for the Pulitzer Prize and former truck driver, has 20 years in journalism and a proven track record in accountability reporting. He has worked for The (Cleveland) Plain Dealer, The Baltimore Sun, the Tampa Bay Times and the Los Angeles Times. Puente has won numerous awards for investigative reporting, including the Al Nakkula Award for Police Reporting, the only national journalism award devoted to police coverage.

At The Marshall Project, Puente has written about traffic stops, reentry services, judicial misconduct and jail deaths.

Spring Fraud Conference



The NEO ACFE welcomes the State of Ohio Auditor of State Keith Faber and speakers Matt Klapheke, CFE and Marissa Marzick, CFE

Herbivore, Carnivore, Greedivore: A Tale of Gluttony at the Columbus Zoo

Matt is a Senior Forensic Audit Manager in the Special Investigations Unit for Auditor of State Keith Faber. The Special Investigations Unit is responsible for conducting limited scope fraud and investigative audits of state and local government subdivisions to examine allegations of fraud, theft, and misappropriation involving public funds. Matt was involved in the investigations of the Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, the Eastern Ohio Housing Development Corporation, the City of Nelsonville, the Athens County Metropolitan Housing Authority, the City of Mount Vernon Clerk of Court, the City of Hilliard Parks and Recreation, and the Columbus City Schools Data Integrity audit. Matt has been with the Auditor of State's office since 2007, beginning his career as a financial auditor in the State Region and later as an Audit Manager. Matt earned both his master's and bachelor's degrees from the University of Dayton and is a Certified Fraud Examiner.

Marissa is an AOS SIU investigator assigned to the Central region of the state. She has been a law enforcement officer since 2001, coming to the unit from a local sheriff's office detective bureau. In addition to over twenty years in law enforcement, Marissa has also worked in the Anti-Money Laundering unit of a national bank. Marissa was the investigator for notable and successfully prosecuted cases including The Columbus Zoo and Aquarium, Knox County Engineer's Office, Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, Richland County Job and Family Services, and the Marion County Clerk of Courts. Marissa has been with SIU since 2019. She holds a Master's in Criminal Justice from Tiffin University and a Bachelors in Criminology from The Ohio State University. Marissa is a Certified Fraud Examiner.

Spring Fraud Conference



Jeremy Dane, Principal - Forensics with BDO

Title: TBD

Jeremy's career has focused on providing consulting in civil and criminal matters with a particular emphasis and specialized expertise in forensic accounting, fraud investigations, fraud due diligence reviews and compliance assessments. With over 20 years of investigations and compliance experience, Jeremy is frequently engaged as both a litigation consultant and forensic accountant, primarily in the areas of fraudulent schemes (e.g. kickbacks) and corruption and bribery (e.g. Foreign Corrupt Practices Act). His work conducting investigations and compliance assessments has taken him around the globe to serve clients in North America, South America, Europe, Africa and Asia.

Board Updates



Open Position: Director of Marketing

The NEO ACFE would like to thank Taylor Adrian who served as our Director of Marketing. That means we are looking for someone who can step in and take his place to help market our chapter activities and other related information on various online platforms

Open Position: Director of Training

We are needing a Director of Training to help with planning topics and speakers to continue providing quality training to members.

- **Board members will not pay for membership to the NEO ACFE chapter.**
- **Board members will not pay for any official NEO ACFE events.**

Each of these roles are needed and important to help manage the chapter but do not take a ton of time to do what is needed. Join, contribute, network, and save money!

If interested, please send an email to info@acfeneo.org

ICYMI FRAUD NEWS

Lorain County Bar Association sues former director over alleged embezzlement



Dave O'Brien
The Chronicle-Telegram

Apr 20, 2026 9:00 PM

The [Lorain County Bar Association](#) has sued its former executive director for allegedly embezzling more than \$62,000 from the organization.

The lawsuit, filed April 13 in Common Pleas Court, alleges that Jeannie Motylewski committed "criminal conduct and multiple fraudulent schemes of deceit and dishonesty" that resulted in nearly \$62,500 being stolen from the organization, whose members include attorneys and the local legal community.

The lawsuit alleges theft, embezzlement, fraud, deceit, unjust enrichment, negligence, "wanton conduct" and "recklessness."

It seeks more than \$25,000 in compensatory and punitive damages on each of multiple claims, plus restitution for what Jeannie Motylewski allegedly stole, interest and attorney fees.

Filed by Columbus-based attorney Eric Zagrans, the lawsuit is assigned to Judge Melissa Kobasher's courtroom.

Former Austin Powder Co. exec admits to \$3M embezzlement from explosives maker

Story by Adam Ferrise, [cleveland.com](#) • 4d • 🕒 2 min read

CLEVELAND, Ohio — A former executive for an Austin Powder Co. subsidiary admitted Friday to ripping off the Beachwood explosives maker for more than \$3 million.

Barry Anderson ran a \$2.4 million scheme alongside the owner of a dump truck company and separately schemed the company out of \$954,000 by secretly leasing the company property it didn't use.