

CHLOË CARMICHAEL FCA APCIP

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Advanced Professional Certificate in Investigative Practice

Fellow of the ICAEW

BA (Hons) 2:1, Maths & Philosophy, University of Bristol

PROFESSIONAL CAREER

I began my chartered accountancy training in 2004 at Lee and Allen Consulting, a boutique forensic accountancy firm in London which was later taken over by CRA International. In 2008, I took a role at the, then, Financial Services Authority, as an Associate firstly in the Retail 3 mortgage fraud team and later in the Unauthorised Business team, primarily investigating boiler room frauds. I joined the Sensitive Investigations Unit of the Royal Bank of Scotland in 2011 building upon my investigations experience by working on a variety of cases ranging from non-compliance with AML and sanctions policies to large scale market abuse allegations.

After nearly three years at RBS, I made the decision to become a freelance forensic accountant and investigator working on many diverse projects from analysing quantum of loss claims to manipulating data in order to identify key transactions. My current client portfolio is made up of London based accountancy, legal and investigation firms including Stoneturn Group, Burford Capital and Salamanca Group and also private clients. I also work as a freelance accountancy tutor for BPP Professional Education.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

INVESTIGATIONS

- R v Wilmot & Others: Successful prosecution of a substantial boiler room fraud, jointly investigated by the FSA and City of London Police. I produced a detailed forensic accounting analysis including an assessment of the misappropriation of investors' funds and analysis of company law documentation in order to demonstrate to the Court the extent of the fraud. I also took part in the PACE and regulatory interviews of the suspects and executed search warrants. I appeared as a prosecution witness for the FSA at Southwark Crown Court.
- I was involved in ascertaining the extent of a company fraud committed by the financial controller of a construction company. I traced invoices and payments through the company's financial systems to the audited financial statements, in order to assess the robustness and integrity of the company's accounting process and in turn how the opportunity for fraud arose. In addition I reviewed the financial controller's personal finances in order to determine his motivation for committing the offence.

- I was the lead forensic accountant on a large mortgage fraud ring relating to a number of firms in East London. My work included reviewing customer files to assess the adequacy of Know Your Customer information, determining the disgorgement of profits and calculating the quantum of regulatory penalties.
- I assisted the Expert forensic accountant on an SEC investigation involving whistleblowing allegations of asset misappropriation fraud by the directors of a multinational company in Los Angeles. My work included tracing directors' expenses through the company records, investigating key items on the financial statements which were used to conceal inappropriate transactions, reconciling company documents to personal and business bank accounts in order to identify payments made and conducting discreet interviews with members of staff to identify gaps in the systems and control processes which could be used to facilitate fraud.
- I worked on an investigation for the Department of Trade and Industry determining whether a company operating in the UK was actually a pyramid scheme. My work included manipulating large amounts of data in Microsoft Access and Excel to determine how products were being sold and how commissions were being paid.
- I assisted the Expert forensic accountant on a missing trader intra community fraud involving an Irish company selling computer parts to a number of UK companies. My work involved a thorough review of invoices and purchase orders to understand the flow of sales and a review of all the companies' banking data to determine how the money flowed and whether VAT payments were made correctly. I assisted with the cross-examination preparation for the Expert during his two-day appearance at Southwark Crown Court. Following a successful conviction, I was involved in helping the Asset Recovery Agency identify company assets and hidden funds overseas.
- I was engaged to assist a firm of litigation funders in identifying assets of an overseas company which was claiming bankruptcy and an inability to pay a judgement. My work involved pinpointing relevant transactions in extensive amounts of 'fuzzy searched' banking data to show how company funds were being disseminated.
- I investigated whistleblowing allegations relating to significant market abuse amongst a group of senior traders in a number of banks. I analysed trading data to identify unusual trading patterns and reconciled any red flags to email and Bloomberg communications. Part of my work was to keep senior banking executives updated in the form of regular written or verbal outputs.
- I have conducted independent reviews of controls and risk environments in RBS's various departments, including assessments against bank policies, industry benchmarks and/or regulatory legislation.
- I led an investigation into the unauthorised dissemination of confidential data relating to a high profile politician. My work involved identifying individuals from CCTV, placing individuals at the scene from an analysis of their banking transactions and implementing 'lessons learned' policies following the conclusion of the case.
- I assisted with reviewing a large amount of insurance files and personal bank details relating to a suspected fraud by a number of customer relationship managers in a bank branch. My work included identifying personal payments from insurance applicants to the customer relationship managers.
- I worked on an investigation which sought to determine whether RBS had inadvertently breached sanctions and facilitated payments to PEPs without the appropriate checks having taken place. My work included a detailed

review of all payments made to particular individuals and companies which I then summarised and presented to senior banking executives so that my work could form the basis of improvements to policy.

COMMERCIAL DISPUTES

- I was engaged to assist on a quantum claim relating to the defence of a loss of profits claim following the termination of a contract. My work included adjusting the loss model and discounted cashflows to better reflect the 'but for' scenario. To do this, I liaised with industry experts and economics experts to establish a more appropriate methodology. I also assisted in drafting an Expert Witness report for use in settlement discussions.
- I was engaged to assist on a 'kick the tyres' analysis for a litigation funder who was deciding whether to take on a case for funding. The work involved determining how an overseas solar power company had invested in its many subsidiaries and how much of the subsidiaries' wealth was directly attributable to the parent company. Much of this work involved identifying key assets on the balance sheets and tracing the figures through the various companies' books and records.
- I have worked on a number of high profile matrimonial disputes which has involved the preparation of budgets, an analysis of company financial statements, valuation of undisclosed shareholdings and identifying (often deliberately hidden) additional assets. Most recently, I have been engaged to assist the wife in a dispute which has involved performing an extensive cashbook analysis of her husband's various bank accounts and unravelling the complex nature of his company structure.
- I assisted a forensic accounting expert who was acting on behalf of a telecommunications company in relation to a breach of contract claim against an African government. The case was heard at the London Court of International Arbitration. My work involved producing a sophisticated financial model to determine quantum under a number of different scenarios as well as drafting parts of the Expert Witness report.
- As part of a small team, I assisted a UK telecommunications company in determining a standardised day rate which could be applied in the event of their vehicles being out of service and thus reducing administrative time and costs. The work involved numerous site visits, interviews with drivers and obtaining comparable data for analysis.
- I worked for a clothing manufacturer in the Far East who was trying to better understand their business. My work included reviewing company forecasts in comparison to prior years' data, analysing competitors' financial information and producing sensitivity analysis in order for the client to test break even points under different scenarios.

OTHER CASE EXPERIENCE

- I was appointed by a hedge fund to conduct an open source review of financial information relating to one of their investments. The foundation of the work was a review of the company's annual reports in order to identify 'red flags' and anomalies which could then form the focus of a more detailed examination. One key finding was that over the years the directors of the company had legitimately manipulated the figures used to calculate one of their KPIs, thus enhancing the performance of the company.

- I assisted in providing forensic accounting expertise to the ex-Chairman of a mining company who was accused of bribery and corruption resulting in a misappropriation of US\$400m and so he was facing extradition to the Middle East. My work involved reconciling contracts and invoices to third party shipment data and comparing the sales prices to market data in order to demonstrate the reasonableness of transactions.

CONTACT DETAILS

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